

## Appendix B: Resources

At least 35 public, non-profit, and private organizations are involved in open space preservation, enhancement, and maintenance within Skagit County – though not all are directly involved in such activities in or around the UGAs.

Workshops were conducted with most of these organizations at the beginning of this planning process in order to determine their mission, resources, programs, projects, and other particulars.

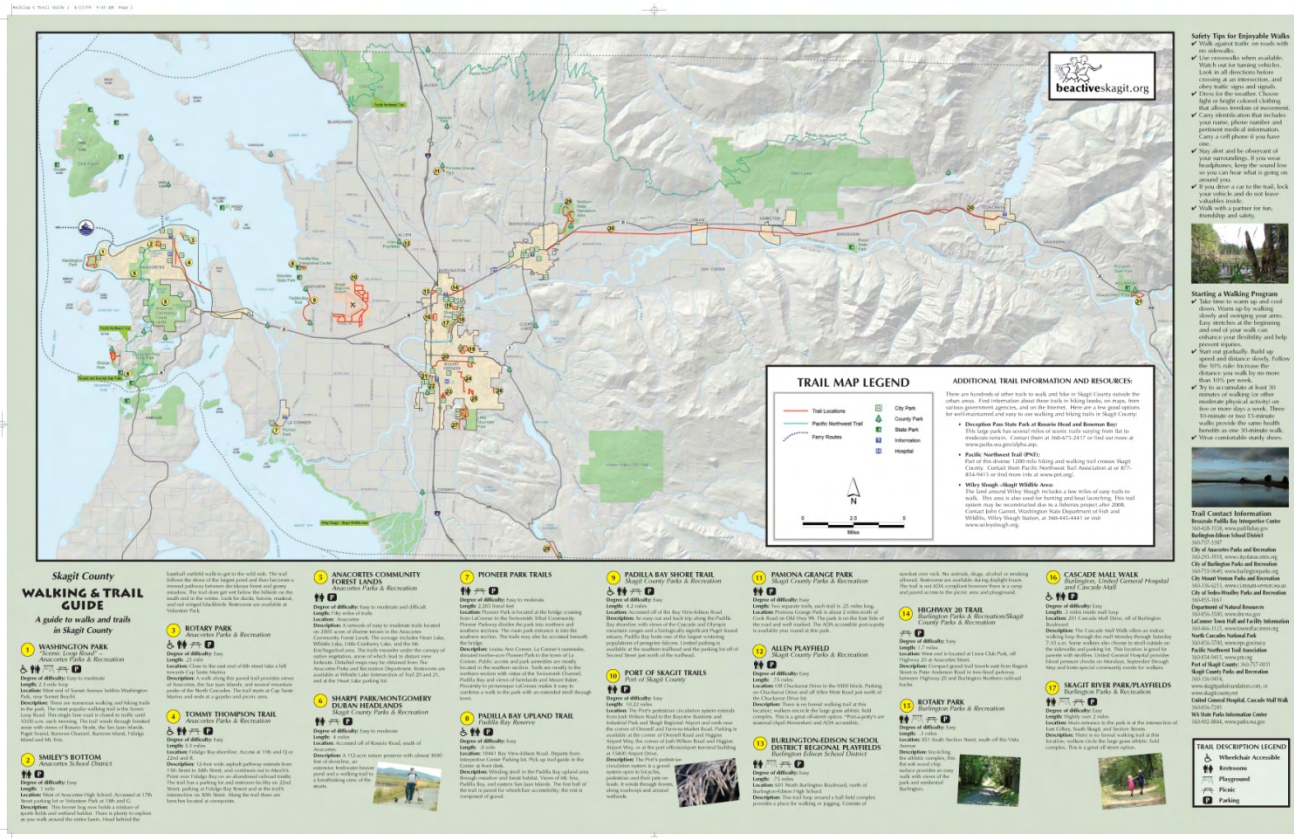
The following pages summarily describe each organization based on information provided during the workshop sessions, mapping data recorded in Skagit County's GIS system, and organization publications.

Each organization's land holdings are depicted in the graphic at the top of each jurisdiction's page based on the county's current GIS records. The county's records may be incomplete in some instances where the property record searches do not recognize all the titles under which an organization may own easements or lands – or

instances where the title includes other jurisdiction or landholder names or references.

Due to the extreme complexity of the GIS mapping characteristic overlays and map scale, the organization's graphic only shows UGA boundaries in relation to the property easements or title holdings on record for the western portions of Skagit County. The purpose of the graphic is to illustrate the dimensions of each organization's landholdings in relation to the county as a whole and the UGAs in particular.

The simplified organizational landholding graphics are correlated with the water, slope, roadway, and UGA base map shown on the first page of this introduction section. Large scale graphics that may include mapping characteristic overlays are too complex to display in this report format - but are available from the Skagit County GIS Department for those that are interested.



## B.1: Active Community Task Force (ACT)

The Active Community Task Force (ACT) grew out of the Healthy Communities Initiative (or Active Community Environments - ACE) established by the Washington State Departments of Health (DOH), Transportation (WSDOT), and Community Trade & Economic Development (CTED) as a means of encouraging healthy lifestyles. Skagit County was one of 8 counties selected to participate in the 5-year Washington State ACEs Pilot Project.

Active Community Environments (ACE) are places where people of all ages and abilities can easily enjoy walking, bicycling, and other forms of recreation. ACEs have sidewalks, on-street bicycle facilities, multiuse

paths and trails, parks, open space, and low cost of free recreation facilities. ACEs encourage mixed use development and a connected grid of streets, allowing homes, work, schools, and stores to be close together and accessible to pedestrians, wheelchair users, older adults, and bicyclists.

ACTs directory of membership includes the Skagit County Public Health Department, Department of Public Works, Skagit Transit, Skagit Valley Hospital, Port of Skagit, Swinomish Tribe, Tesoro Anacortes Refinery, WSDOT, the Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG), among others including private parties.

ACT advises the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Skagit County Council of Governments (SCOG) on non-motorized issues. The TAC incorporates these concerns into recommendations to the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) Policy Boards.

ACT in partnership with the Skagit County Physical Activity Coalition has developed and coordinated the Skagit County Walking and Trail Guides and Skagit County Bike Map. These projects incorporated county GIS mapping services to create the base maps and are intended to familiarize county residents with the trail and biking potentials available in the county.

In 2008, ACT convened local cities, towns, and the county to create a countywide inventory of on and off-road trail and route missing links improvement projects. The "Gap List" was included in the Washington State Department of Transportation's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan update and serves as a prioritized listing on non-motorized projects for local jurisdictions.

***Statewide ACE priority strategies are to:***

- Increase physical activity by connecting trails and bike paths
- Support policy in Growth Management plans to include physical activity
- Establishing partnerships with transportation, planners, policymakers, and local health organizations
- Developing Active Living (or Community) Task Forces to work on projects and advise RTPOs
- Conduct ACE assessments

***Skagit County ACEs work completed and in progress includes:***

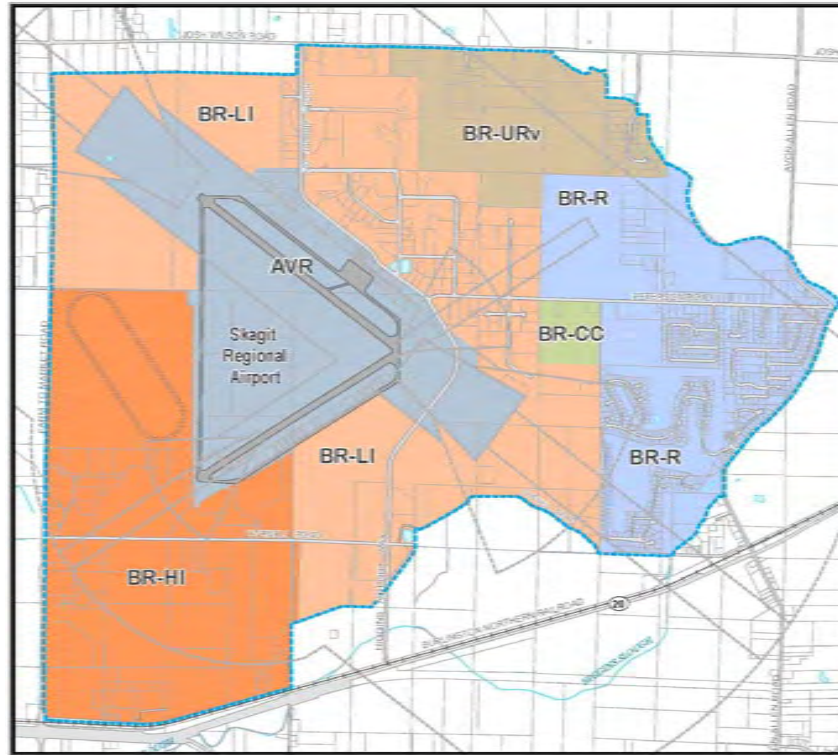
- Established the Active Community Task Force in 2002
- Conducts annual Safe Routes to School (SRTS) trainings and provides technical assistance for local jurisdictions and school districts for SRTS programs and grant writing
- Conducted ACE assessments, including the 2008 assessment of Anacortes, Burlington, LaConner, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit County
- Conducts annual ACE's or Active Living Leadership workshops or forums

- Advocates and supports for trails and non-motorized improvements, such as the Tommy Thompson Trail extension and the Berentson Bridge signage and barrier extension
- In partnership with the Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department and Skagit County Healthy Communities Project, formed the Skagit County Trails Coalition in 1008. The Trails Coalition is working to develop a countywide master trail and bicycle plan.
- In partnership with Skagit County Parks & Recreation, ACT has created a trail monitoring program, which utilizes infrared counters to monitor trail facility usage.
- ACT members participate in comprehensive transportation and non-motorized element plans updates to ensure that they include Physical Activity (PA), open spaces and trails plans.
- ACT members provide expert input to local jurisdictions on non-motorized projects as requested.
- Is partnering with Whatcom, Snohomish, and Island Counties to create a region-wide, multicounty approach to trail planning.

***On-going activities for ACE projects***

- Applying for grants or other funding sources
- Developing partnerships
- Reviewing and updated comprehensive non-motorized plan elements
- Providing input to policymakers
- Help establish partnerships that would not occur without ACT





## B.2: Bayview Ridge Urban Growth Area

[www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net)



The Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan creates a small urban area called a “non-municipal Urban Growth Area (UGA) on about 3,600 acres located around the Skagit County Regional Airport. If developed as proposed, the area would accommodate about 2,000 of the 50,000 new resident forecast to live in Skagit County in the next 20 years and not accommodated in existing urban growth areas.

The subarea includes the Skagit Regional Airport and a mix of existing urban levels of commercial, industrial, and residential properties plus rural residences and some farms. The remaining undeveloped properties are generally large, providing an opportunity for multiple uses and master planning. The proposed new urban area represents about 3,600 acres of the slightly larger 4,000-acre subarea studied in the plan.

A Citizens Advisory Committee worked with the county to prepare the plan, which was then forwarded to the County Planning Commission for review. The Planning Commission focused on the following major issues:

- Airport compatibility and appropriate scale of land use in various safety zones, and
- Infrastructure, especially stormwater management sufficient to protect downstream farms, water, sewer, parks, transportation, schools, and emergency services.

The Planning Commission recommended numerous changes including:

- Deferring the urban residential portion and new industrial and commercial zoning until the county adopts the Bayview Watershed Stormwater Management Plan;

- Allowing new schools in limited circumstances;
- Larger areas for small retail and service businesses;
- Greater protection of residential development where adjacent to industrial uses; and
- More pedestrian and bicycle connections.

The Bayview Ridge Subarea Plan was adopted by the Skagit County Board of County Commissioners in December 2006, then subsequently appealed to the Western Washington Growth Management (GMA) Hearings Board. The Hearings Board decision issued in August 2007 found the urban growth area to be generally consistent with GMA but ordered the county to update the capital facilities plan for providing infrastructure. The compliance schedule called for the county to report back to the Hearings Board in February 2008.

### **Boundaries**

The boundaries of the Bayview Ridge UGA reflect major industrial/commercial property ownerships, existing land use, and topography. Avon-Allen Road and a steep hillside for the boundary on the east, SR-20 and Ovenell Road on the south, Farm to Market Road on the west, and the Port of Skagit County ownership, Josh Wilson Road, and a steep hillside on the north.

The UGA includes urban levels of industrial/commercial and residential development, but in isolated fashion – it is not a cohesive community. The remaining undeveloped properties are generally large, providing an opportunity for master planning. This planning will maximize the public and private resources already invested in, and planning for the UGA by creating a cohesive and more self-sufficient urban community, while insuring compatibility with continued development of the Skagit County Regional Airport and adjacent industrial lands.

### **Goals**

The Subarea Plan for the UGA is designed to provide for the planned and orderly growth of the UGA by:

- Establishing a Bayview Ridge UGA based on its suitability for development and the commitment of public and private services and resources invested in the area;
- Creating a cohesive, thriving community with a diversity of residential, industrial, airport, and community/public uses;
- Taking advantage of the unique opportunity to build upon natural assets of the area, situated on a topographic bench above the floodplain with incredibly scenic views;

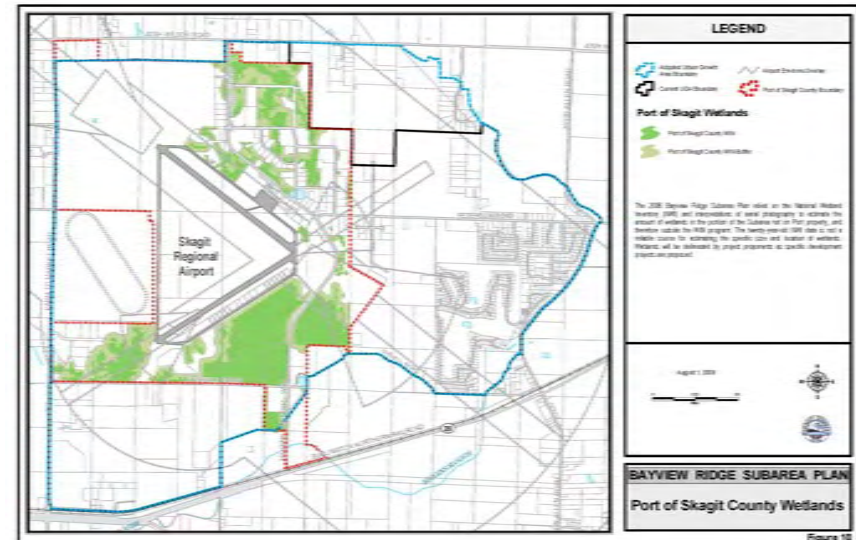
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Appendix B: Resources  
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

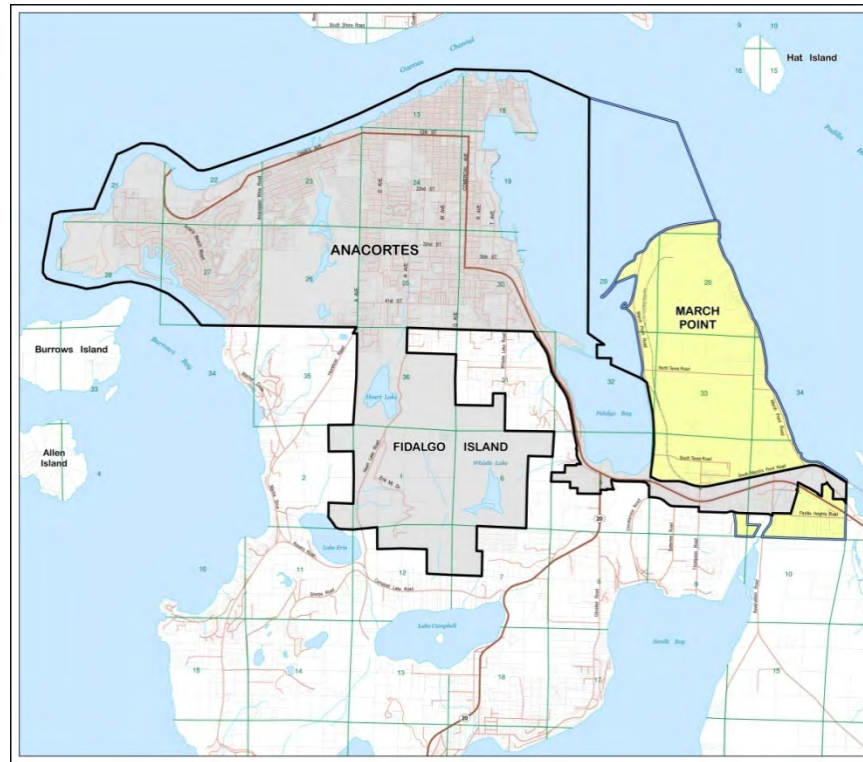
- Providing an opportunity for residents to live, work, and recreate in the same community;
- Encouraging a variety of housing opportunities;
- Creating a safe, pedestrian-friendly internal transportation network;
- Preserving and protecting aviation activity at the Skagit Regional Airport, an essential public facility, consistent with the Skagit Regional Airport Master Plan;
- Providing for industrial development in a planned and coordinated fashion;
- Developing an open space network that provides recreational opportunities, airport safety, and protects and maintains natural resources and critical areas; and
- Creating a Community Center to be a hub of local service provisions and limited commercial activity serving Bayview Ridge residents and employees.

### **Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails**

The Bayview Ridge UGA has over 1,023 acres of existing wetlands and buffers. Additional open spaces will be required for each new development project consistent with the Skagit Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Study findings. A 25-acre community park is also



planned for the area. Additionally, community open space and pocket parks, along with areas for employee recreation, will be addressed in the master site planning process.



### B.3: City of Anacortes

[www.ci.anacortes.wa.us](http://www.ci.anacortes.wa.us)



***Settlement was initiated in Anacortes*** - on March Point in the 1860s as the bracken-covered prairie was far easier to farm than the surrounding forest lands. Amos Bowman, a civil engineer hired to explore the region by railroad interests, bought land near the present ferry landing, built a wharf, and named the community after his wife - Anna Curtis. In 1882, Bowman published and distributed a promotional map touting the town's potential as a railroad terminus and seaport.

The dream seemed real when Seattle & Northern Railroad (S&N) agents affiliated with the Union Pacific Railroad (UP) began buying acreage. The first train arrived in 1890 though the track was only a connector line to the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad (SLS&E). The train's arrival set off land speculation and the population increased from 40 to 3,000 persons in a few months as hotels, warehouses, saw mills, and

other buildings materialized in the vicinity of the present downtown and the city incorporated in 1891. The city's population was 16,400 in 2007. Anacortes city parks serve the entire Fidalgo Island population including city residents which was 23,026 persons in the year 2007 or 6,626 persons more than reside within city limits. Anacortes city is expected to increase from 16,400 persons to 18,300 by the year 2025 while the entire Fidalgo Island area is expected to increase from 23,026 to 29,536 persons by the year 2018.

#### ***Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails***

The Anacortes Planning Department maintains land use regulations that protect critical areas including wetlands, floodplains, geological hazards, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. Significant resources are located at Rosario Strait, Ship Harbor, Cap Sante, Cranberry Lake, Heart Lake Whistle Lake, and Lake Erie - most of which are contained within



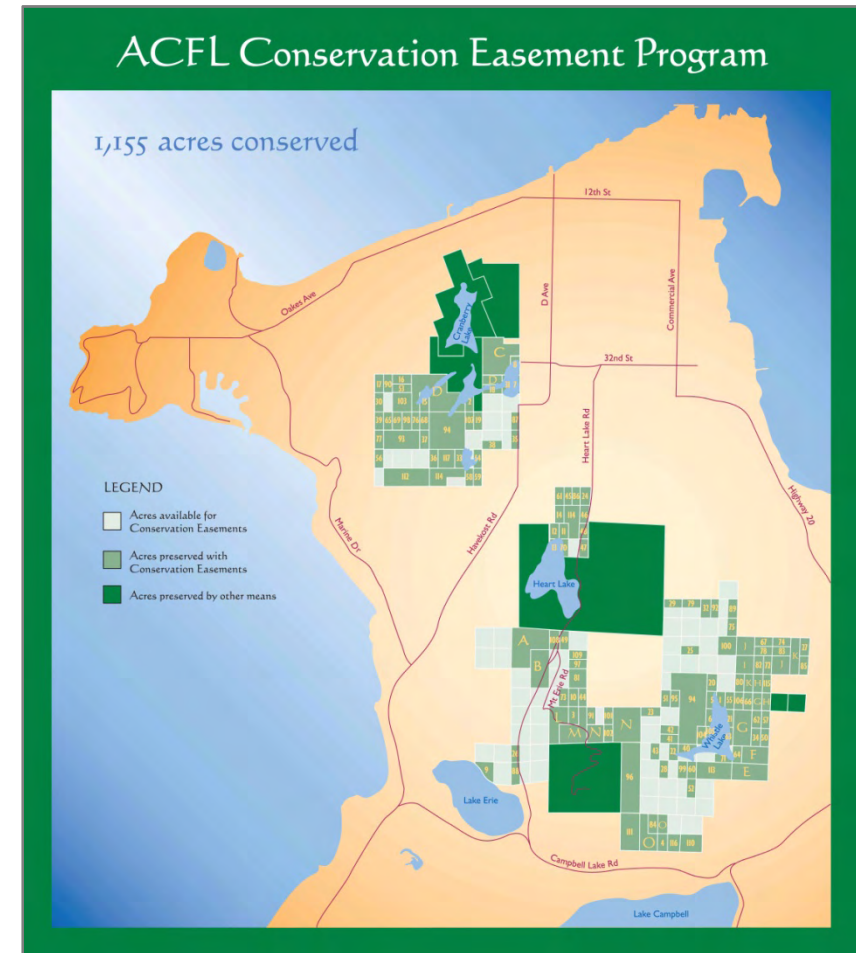
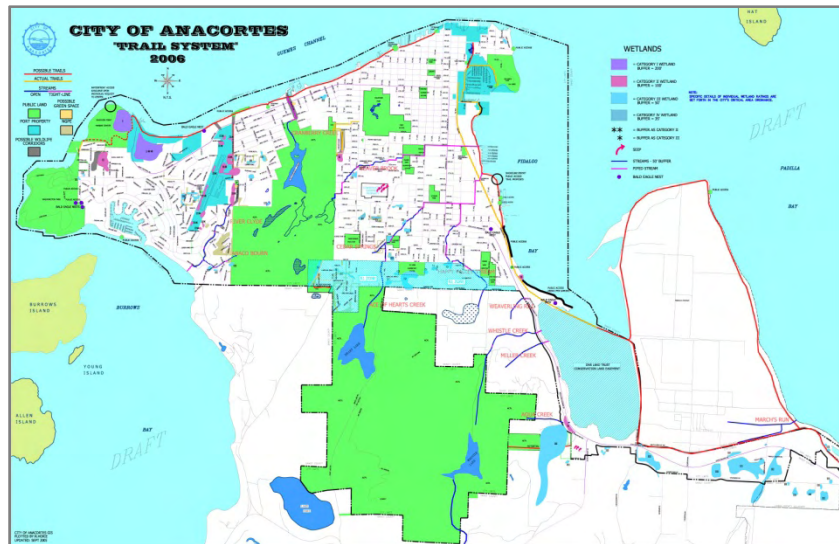
Washington Park, Cap Sante Park, and the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

The Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department owns and manages 3,759.7 acres of park, open space, and trail corridors within the city including:

- **Washington Park** – a 220-acre park located on the city’s western tip jutting into Rosario Straits and containing woodlands, wetlands, extensive trails, boat launches, picnic shelters, playgrounds, and 75 campsites.
- **Mt Erie** – a 160-acre park located on the summit of Mt Erie on the highest point of Fidalgo Island and containing the city watershed, viewpoints, and trail connections to the Community Forest Lands.
- **Cap Sante Park** – a 49-acre forested promontory located at the eastern edge of Anacortes overlooking the marina, downtown, March Point, Fidalgo Bay, and the Cascade Mountains.
- **Tommy Thompson Parkway** – 3.3 miles of paved multipurpose trail located on the former railroad track bed and 0.4 mile trestle from the downtown across Padilla Bay to March Point.
- **Anacortes Community Forest Lands** – 2,800 acres of city-owned forest lands located within city limits and containing

forested hills, lakes, streams, wetlands, and meadows managed by a full-time forest manager. The forest lands contain 9 looped trails covering 50 miles designed for horses, motorcycles, bikes, and hikers – although some forest areas are restricted to specific user groups.

- **Cranberry Lake Forest Lands** – a 703 acre Community Forest Land holding located around Cranberry Lake with a public access and trailhead parking.
- **Whistle Lake Forest Lands** – a 1,406 acre Community Forest



Land holding located east of Mt Erie and part of the former city watershed with limited access and some trails.

- **Heart Lake Forest Lands** – 532 acre Community Forest Land holding surrounding Heart Lake comprised of DNR land give to the city as well as the former Heart Lake State Park which was transferred to the city in 2003.

### Community Forest Lands

Some of these park properties, Mt Erie, in particular, were acquired by donations beginning in the first half of the century. Other properties, such as Cranberry Park, the Whistle Lake basin, and both sides of Heart Lake Road, were acquired by the Water Department from Douglas Allmond’s Washington Power, Light & Water Company in 1919 to protect the city watershed.

Initially, most of the timber located on Community Forest Lands was logged by private loggers with permission or sale of the timber harvesting by the city. In 1989, however, following a series of petitions and surveys, all logging for revenue purposes on city property was stopped pending the development of a forest management plan.



A Forest Lands Management Plan was initially developed and adopted in 1991 and is currently being updated to identify management units, use zones, and critical habitat areas. The plan’s implementation is overseen by a 5 member Forest Advisory Board (FAB) that also develops policies acting as stewards for this environmental and recreational resource.

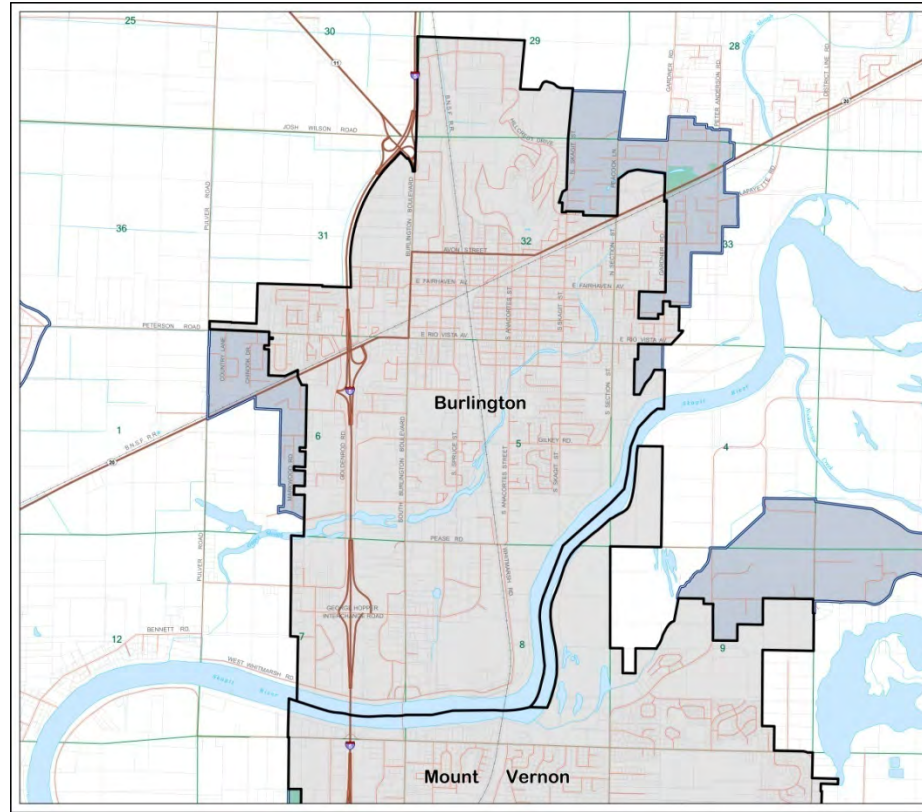
Anacortes City Council also authorized the Forest Lands Endowment Fund that same year to raise monies for the preservation and management of the Community Forest Lands in lieu of timber harvesting.

The Friends of the Forest (FoF) and Skagit Land Trust (SLT), private non-profit organizations, separate from the city, are also involved in the fund raising efforts. The objective is to raise sufficient monies with

which forest management costs and additional conservation easements can be financed.

The city, the FoF, and SLT raise monies to purchase additional conservation easements with which to link, consolidate, and expand the Community Forest Lands. The conservation easements, which are held by the SLT, protect the land from logging, mining, and other commercial ventures under public ownership under which the easement cannot be sold, leased, or transferred. Since the Conservation Easement Program’s inception in 1998 public donations have raised over \$1,537,000 and acquired easements over 1,450 acres at an average cost of \$1,000 per acre.





## B.4: City of Burlington

[www.ci.burlington.wa.us](http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us)



***Settlement was initiated in Burlington*** – later than most other developments in Skagit County. In 1882 the city was a mere logging camp with ox-powered cars and maple-railed tracks for hauling logs to the Skagit River to be towed downstream by

the steamer Alki.

During the next decade a farming community developed on the logged-over land serving the newly developed railroad lines extending up the Skagit River and north-south between Bellingham and Seattle. The city incorporated in 1902 developing a downtown adjacent to the main intersection of the railroads along Fairhaven Avenue.

Modern Burlington has developed into a major regional retail center for Skagit County and communities along the I-5 corridor with the development of the Cascade Mall, numerous big box retail centers, and independent big box stores as well as a concentration of car dealerships on Auto Row.

The city's population was 8,728 persons in 2000 with a projected population by 2025 of 12,000 persons within the Burlington urban growth area (UGA).

### ***Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails***

The Burlington Planning Department maintains land use regulations protecting critical areas consisting of floodplains, geological hazardous areas, wetlands, and wildlife habitat including:

- **Gages Slough** - a series of connected wetlands running through the center of town. Most of the city's stormwater is collected in the Slough before being discharged into the Skagit River.

The Burlington Parks & Recreation Department oversees 178 acres of park, open space, and 2.2 miles of trail corridors within the city including:

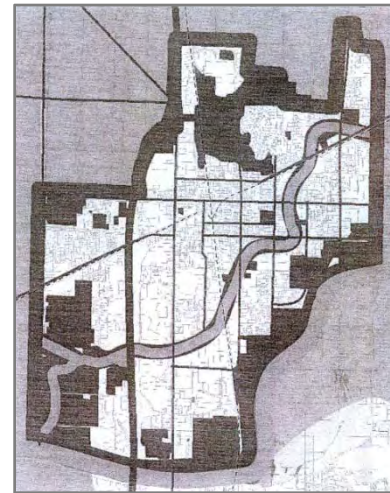
- **Skagit River Park** - a 132-acre complex located on the north bank of the Skagit River with 22 soccer fields, 8 baseball fields, 24 horseshoe pits, picnic shelter, playground, an off-road remote control car track, and open space within the river floodplain.



**UGA open space/farmland preservation**

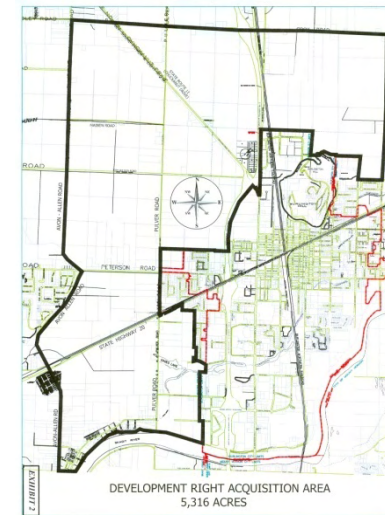
Burlington is also spearheading a program along with Skagit County, Mount Vernon, the Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, and others to protect Agricultural Natural Resource Land around the city limits through the following measures:

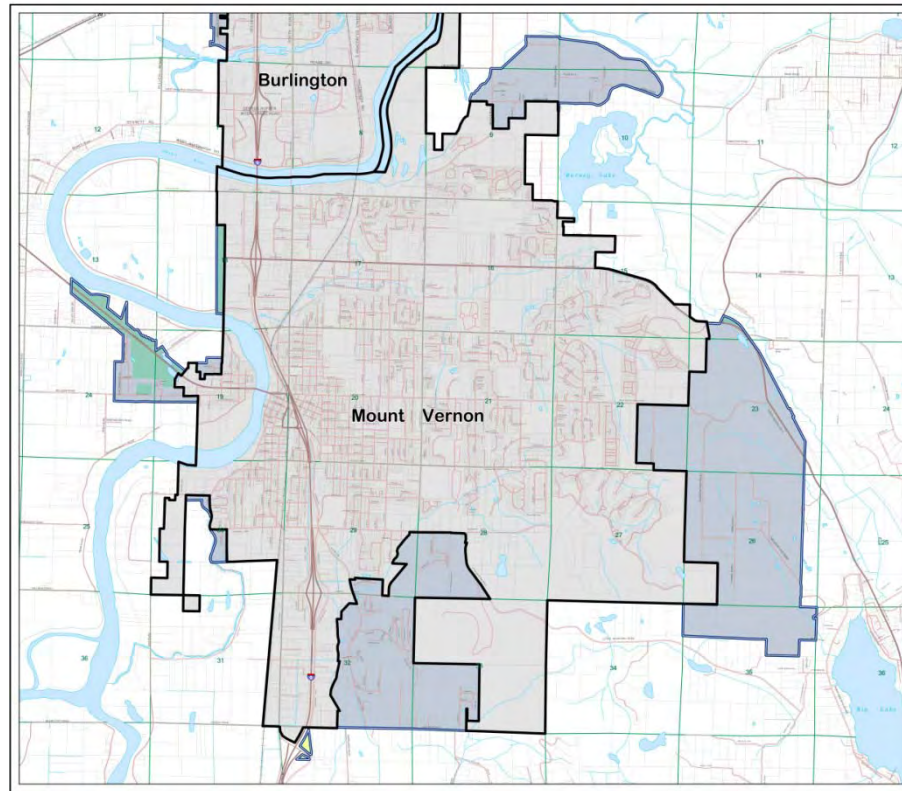
- **Transfer development rights** - a program to facilitate the preservation of threatened farmlands around the city using the Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit fee program. The fee based approach generates funds from the receiving zones around the city that are deposited in the countywide program that purchases farmland development rights. The city prioritizes the sending zones around the north, west, and east edges of the city urban growth area to create a permanent greenway and buffer.
- **Urban growth area (UGA) limits** - that focuses development density within the established cores including the 48 block downtown using development rights from farmland transfer, new zoning, and design/historic guidelines.
- **Community connections** - that will create a green band of permanent connected open space in and around the city reinforcing



the limits of future urban growth and enhancing the community's connection to the larger surrounding region. The open space band, which is based on a concept developed by a University of Washington Landscape Architecture studio class in 2004 through a community wide public planning process, will include riverfront, pathways and walkways, interpretive exhibits, wildlife viewing areas, and agricultural resource lands.

The Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit program is not on line yet while the city completes an economic analysis of the fee structure and resolves the final map boundaries.





## B.5: City of Mount Vernon

[www.ci.mountvernon.wa.us](http://www.ci.mountvernon.wa.us)



***Settlement was initiated in Mount Vernon*** – Mount Vernon was settled in 1870 on reclaimed land from the marshy riverbanks and sloughs of the Skagit River. Few settlers ventured upstream of the huge logjams near present-day Mount Vernon. The logjams were natural, some more than a mile in length and undisturbed for so long that tangles of uprooted trees hosted brush and colonies of small animals and birds.

In 1876, volunteers began removing the logjams in spite of the territorial government’s refusal of help. 5 men worked for 2 years – 2

drowning in the effort, before clearing a 250-foot channel through the lower jam which allowed the first steamer to chug upstream to the tiny settlement of Mount Vernon.

In 1879, men also succeeded in cutting an opening through an upper logjam that enhanced Mount Vernon’s development, but wrought havoc downstream as loosened logs destroyed farms between the north and south forks of the river around Fir Island.

Harrison Clothier opened a store in Mount Vernon in 1877 and was joined by other merchants who marketed the miners en route to the

gold excitement at Ruby Creek at the headwaters of the Skagit River – now Ross Lake.

The city’s population was 28,332 in 2000 with a forecasted population of 47,900 within the urban growth area by the year 2025.

**Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails**

Mount Vernon is defined on the north and west by the Skagit River floodplain, on the east by the Nookachamps Creek and Barney Lake floodplains, by Britt Slough’s riparian corridor on the west, through the UGA by Maddox and Carpenter Creeks riparian corridors, on the south by Little Mountain Park, and on the south and west by agricultural resource zoned lands.

The Skagit River floodplains extend up the Nookachamps and Barney Lake on the east boundary of the UGA before being channeled by dikes through the corridor between Burlington, West Mount Vernon, and East Mount Vernon.

The east and south segments of the river corridor are defined by river oxbows and old channel cuts overgrown with woodlands and river habitat. Some portions of these corridors have been preserved through acquisitions and easements, and some public land in Mount Vernon’s Edgewater Park has been restored and enhanced for salmon habitat.

The central segment of the river corridor is very constrained and except for Lions Park North and the sand bar along Dunbar Road, limited by dikes and shoreline improvements.

The open space corridors and buffers along Kulshan, Maddox, and Carpenter Creeks extend through and into the developed areas of the city linking the interior with the Skagit River, Nookachamps Creek and Big Lake, and Britt Sough open space systems.

These finger systems also define the edges and provide access to Beaver Pond and Little Mountain, significant natural and aesthetic resources in the center of the UGA.

The Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation Department owns and maintains a significant amount of park and open space resources including:

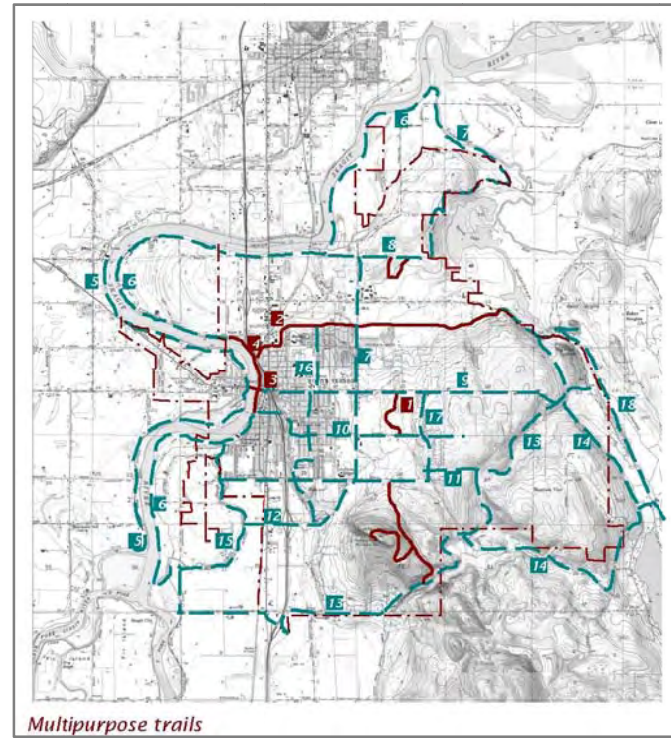
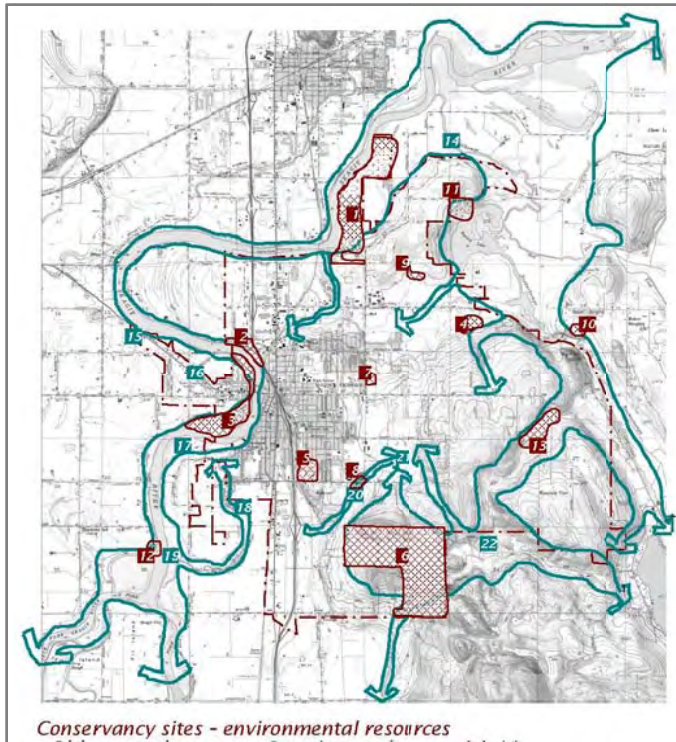
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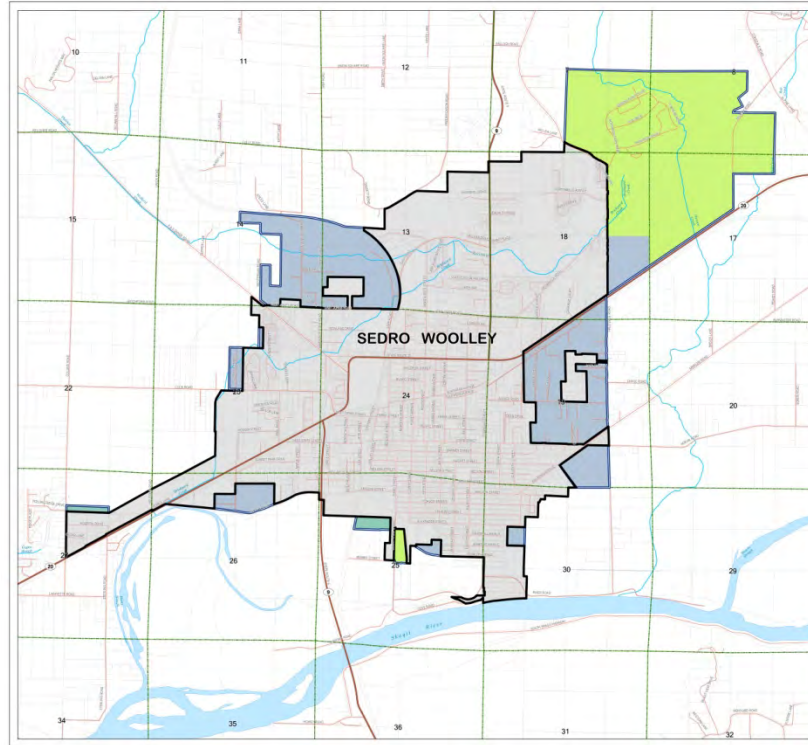
- **Little Mountain** – a 517.0-acre regional conservancy located on Little Mountain with access from Little Mountain Park and Hickox Roads. The park provides a north extended viewpoint overlook, and south covered viewpoint shelter, portable toilet, 6 picnic tables, hang-gliding launch ramp, 5.0 mile hiking trails, 2.0 mile mountain bike trail, and 17 parking spaces on top of the mountain.
- **Edgewater Park** – a 66.3-acre community park located on the west bank of the Skagit River extending under Division Street Bridge with 28.5 acres developed with a playground, picnic area, covered stage, 3 softball/soccer fields, boat launch and 14 trailer parking stalls, public restrooms and seasonal toilets, and 10 seasonal campsites, and 150 parking spaces. The park includes 38.1 acres of wetland and woodland conservation area with a salmon stream enhancement and restoration area along the riverbank.
- **Ted Reep Park** – a 47.4-acre conservancy located on the east bank of the Skagit River with access from Hoag Road providing wetlands, open agriculture fields, and woodlands with 1.5 miles of dirt trail along the bank of the Skagit River.
- **Lions Park North** – a 15.0-acre conservancy located on the east bank of the Skagit River off Freeway Drive with dirt walking trails, 2.5 acre open space, and 5 on-street parking spaces.
- **Bakerview Park Wetland** – a 12.0-acre Wetland preservation area extending east from Bakerview Park to Seneca Drive with walking paths, an interpretive and sitting area, wetland restoration, stream enhancement, and salmon rearing pond.
- **The Centennial Trail** – may extend along the eastern edge of the UGA within or adjacent or parallel to the original railroad right-of-way, portions of which have since reverted or been acquired by adjoining private property owners and developers.  
  
The trail could link Big Lake, the Nookachamps, Barney Lake, and the Skagit River open spaces with Mount Vernon by Carpenter Creek and the city’s Kulshan Trail.
- **The Skagit River Trail South Bank proposal** – is to extend a trail access along the south bank of the Skagit River from the

Centennial Trail and Nookachamps Creek on the east through Mount Vernon's Lions Parks, the downtown, and areas further south to Stanwood.

Depending on more detailed planning with affected property owners and interests, possible trail corridor alternatives could be located on or adjacent river dikes, local roadways, and city parklands.

Possible local trail systems could extend through the UGA to link the Centennial and Skagit River South Bank Trails by way of the Kulshan Trail, and adjacent to Beaver Pond, Little Mountain, and Big Lake on trails adjacent to Maddox and Carpenter Creeks, and Britt Slough.





## B.6: City of Sedro-Woolley

[www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us](http://www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us)



***Settlement was initiated in Sedro-Woolley*** – in 1884 when Mortimer Cook built the first shingle mill and platted a town on the north bank of the Skagit River. Cook threatened to name the town “Bug” in honor of the local mosquito population but town folk campaigned for Sedro, based upon the Spanish “cedra”, meaning cedar.

In 1889, five years after Cook platted Sedro, Phillip Woolley platted a neighboring town slightly to the north to accommodate 3 railroad lines – the Fairhaven and Southern (F&S), Seattle, Lakeshore & Eastern (SL&E

– to become Northern Pacific (NP)), and the Seattle & Northern (S&N to become the Great Northern (GN)).

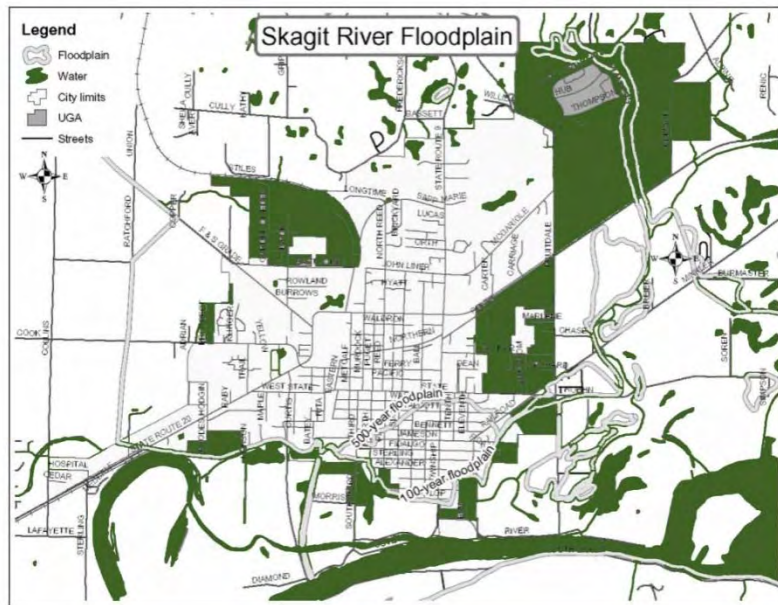
Charles Larrabee, a developer from Fairhaven (Bellingham), developed a coal mine just north of Woolley and named his town Cokedale. Four kilns at the mine heated coal to drive off gases and produce a clean, hot-burning fuel used by Northern Pacific (NP) Railroad locomotives. A spur track connected the mine to Woolley, which became the predominant community. In 1898 Sedro and Woolley merged and incorporated as Sedro-Woolley.

Sedro-Woolley’s population was 10,358 in 2000 with a forecasted population of 15,000 in the urban growth area (UGA) by the year 2025.

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Appendix B: Resources  
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan





### **Critical areas, open spaces, parks, and trails**

The Sedro-Woolley Planning Department maintains land use regulations that conserve and protect critical areas including floodplains, wetlands, geological hazardous areas, and wildlife habitat. This includes maintaining the buffers and water quality of Harts Slough, Brickyard Creek, Hansen Creek, and Red Creek.

The Sedro-Woolley Parks Department maintains 44.5 acres of park and open space lands including:

- **Riverfront Park** - a 17.5-acre property located on the north bank of the Skagit River with a boat launch, athletic fields, picnic tables and shelter, and 27 RV and 5 tent campsites. The city also owns a 35.0-acre property that is adjacent to the park but outside of existing city limits that has not been improved for park purposes.

**Skagit County Parks & Recreation Department** - owns and maintains a number of significant park, open space, and trail assets within and adjacent to Sedro-Woolley urban growth area boundaries including:

- **Northern State Recreational Area (NSRA)** - a 726.0-acre county park is located on the city's eastern edge that includes pasture lands, some wooded areas, wetlands, Hansen Creek frontage, and numerous buildings dating from when the property was used as a state mental hospital. Under a master plan completed in year 2000, over 500 acres of the site will remain undeveloped to support wildlife habitat. The park will showcase the natural, historical, and cultural character of the region and provide accessibility and sustainability. The site will be improved with an Education Center, trail system, and a 40-acre parcel with 100 camping sites.
- **The Burlington-Sedro-Woolley Trail** - a 3.0 mile trail extends from the east edge of Burlington adjacent between railroad and SR-20 right-of-way to the west edge of Sedro-Woolley city limits. Eventually, the trail will be extended through town to connect with the Cascade Trail to provide an uninterrupted trail corridor.
- **The Cascade Trail** - a 22.5-mile, 280.0-acre multipurpose county trail parallels SR-20 from the east edge of Sedro-Woolley to Concrete. The rails-to-trails conservancy project is open year round for hiking, biking, and equestrian trail users.
- **The Centennial Trail** - a 9.2-mile multipurpose county-owned trail corridor is proposed to extend from Arlington in Snohomish County north along former railroad right-of-way through Sedro-Woolley to eventually connect with the Whatcom Lake Trail into Bellingham, and north as the Centennial Trail to Sumas and the Canadian border.



**B.7: Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)**

[www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)



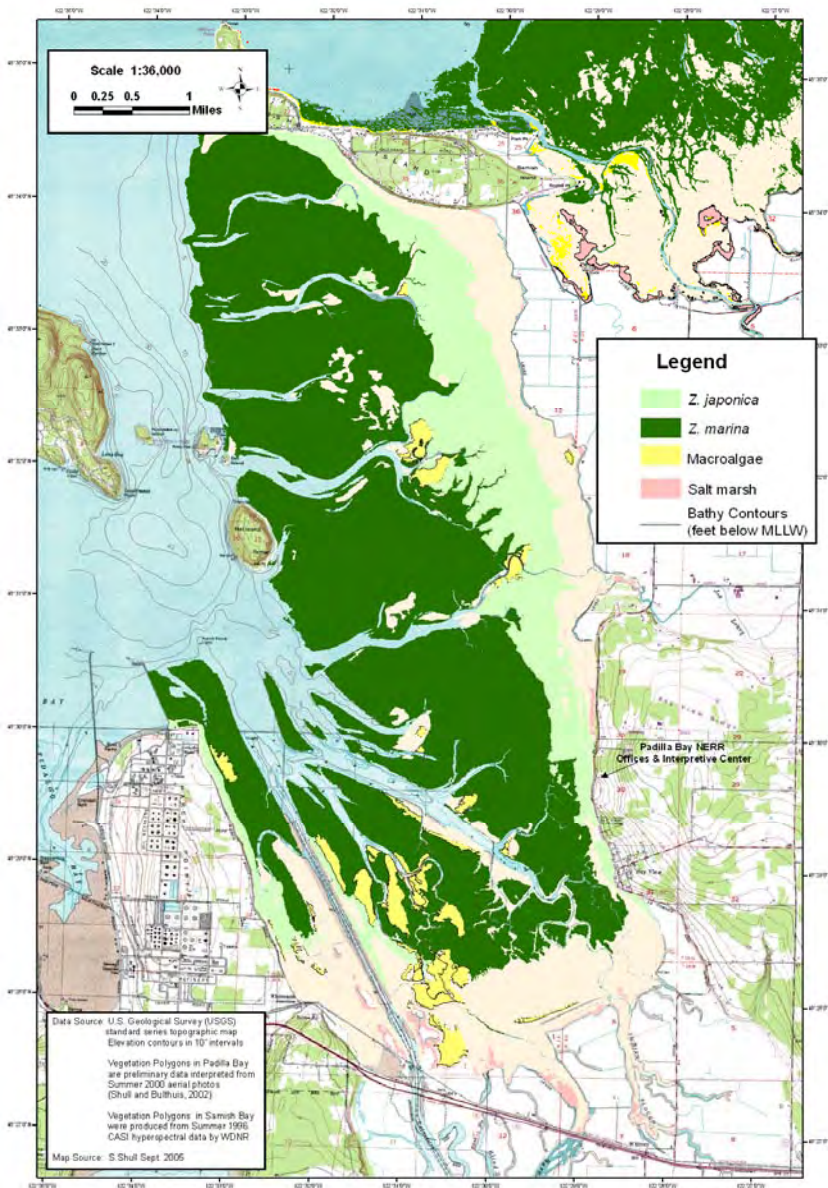
The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is administered by the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the US Department of Commerce. The system was created under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and includes reserves throughout

the coastal United States and Puerto Rico. The system was created to promote scientific research and public education about valuable estuarine resources and to protect representative estuaries for long-term study.

Padilla Bay Reserve, part of NOAA's National Estuary Research Reserve System and the only NERR in Washington State, was designated in 1980 and is managed by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The Reserve owns and manages approximately 11,000 acres of the bay and nearly 200 upland acres.

*Thousands of years ago* - the Skagit River meandered back and forth between Skagit and Padilla Bays. Huge brackish marshes lay north and south of Bay View Ridge, where the Center is now located.

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When settlers arrived in the late 1900s, the Skagit River emptied into Skagit Bay. Agricultural dikes confine the river to its present course. Today Padilla Bay's fresh water comes from a number of small sloughs that drain directly into the bay and indirectly from rivers that flow into Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia.

***Padilla Bay*** - is part of the Puget Sound and Strait of Georgia estuary. The Bay is an estuary at the saltwater edge of the large delta of the Skagit River approximately 8 miles long and 3 miles across. Because the bay is filled with sediment from the Skagit River, the bottom is very shallow, flat, and muddy. The bay is so shallow that almost the whole bay is intertidal - meaning it is flooded at high tide. The whole bay empties when the tide goes out exposing miles and miles of mud flats that allow unusually large eelgrass meadows to grow. There are nearly 8,000 acres of eelgrass in Padilla Bay.

Padilla Bay's eelgrass meadows are the largest in the state, offering feeding areas for migratory waterfowl, nursery areas for young fish and crabs, and habitat for a complex community of organisms. Low tide exposes a vast mud flat supporting millions of worms, shrimp, clams, and other invertebrates.

***The Coastal Training Program*** - provides training to professional who deal with coastal issues or work in businesses that affect coastal areas. Other education programs are offered for youth programs, school programs (pre-kindergarten-high school), and programs for the general public covering a wide range of estuarine topics.

Research is conducted at Padilla Bay to monitor plant and animal populations, evaluate sources of pollution, protect water quality, and to understand ecological process operating in the bay and the bay's relationship to greater Puget Sound. Research programs distribute information and data to resource managers and scientists to further understanding of estuaries.

***The Breazeale Interpretive Center*** - sits on 64 upland acres and overlooks the bay. The center provides a place for people of all ages to learn more about estuaries, watersheds, and coastal areas. The center provides interactive exhibits, saltwater aquaria, hands-on room, curriculum and reference library, meeting rooms, a theater, and trails.

Other facilities include a field lab and overnight quarters for visiting researchers. The Breazeale House provides offices for staff and a small meeting room.



**Shore Trail** – is a level, 2.25 mile dike-top bike and hike trail that follows the southeastern shore of Padilla Bay. The trail includes interpretive signage explaining the natural history and ecology of the Padilla Bay estuary.

**Upland Trail** – is a 0.8 mile loop winding through meadows and forest habitat with a view of Mount Baker at the top. The trail begins at the parking lot behind the barn and continues halfway as a paved wheelchair access and the balance as a gravel path.

**Observation Deck** – a walkway from the Interpretive Center extends toward the beach and an observation deck overlooking the bay. A wheelchair access ramp and spiral stairs lead to the beach.

**Volunteer and stewardship projects** – include a wide variety of activities involving removal of invasive species (thistle, English ivy and holly, blackberry, and Spartina), monitoring of European green crab,

documentation of creosote logs, tires, and other wastes, and surveys of birds, amphibians, plants, and other species.

Upcoming stewardship activities will develop an Upland Management Plan, remove and dispose of old logs, tires, and other debris, classify habitats, and restore plantings.

Other public involvement programs include:

- **Stream Team** – citizen volunteers collecting water quality and monitoring data to assess the health of several sources of fresh water to Skagit County estuaries,
- **No Name Slough** – citizens improving environmental conditions in the watershed,
- **The Demonstration Farm** – an outdoor laboratory testing agricultural practices, providing demonstrations and education on minimizing agricultural non-point pollution impacts to water quality,
- **Padilla Bay Foundation** – member information on opportunities to protect Padilla Bay and support the Reserve,
- **Northwest Straits Commission** – a grassroots effort to protect marine resources in northwest Washington, from the Strait of Juan de Fuca and northern Puget Sound to the Canadian border.

**No Name Slough** – is the name of a small creek that drains into Padilla Bay at the Padilla Demonstration Farm. The slough is called No Name

because the lower reaches are in land so low and flat that it is affected by the tide. This land was diked and drained over a 100 years ago and the water of No Name passes through a tide gage under the Padilla Bay Shore Trail.



The upper reaches of the No Name Slough watershed are on Bay View Ridge – where a lot of growth is projected to occur in coming years. The No Name Slough project is to project ahead what can be done to improve conditions. The watershed study will develop options to address the issues of farm flooding, polluted waters, and fish and wildlife restoration opportunities. Decisions will utilize on-going data being collected on water quantity, water quality, water flow,

and habitat within the watershed.

The study is a unique, joint staff effort with the Skagit Conservation District and the Padilla Bay NERR. Both agencies are non-regulatory agencies interested in resource conservation and community solutions to the challenges caused by growth impacts.

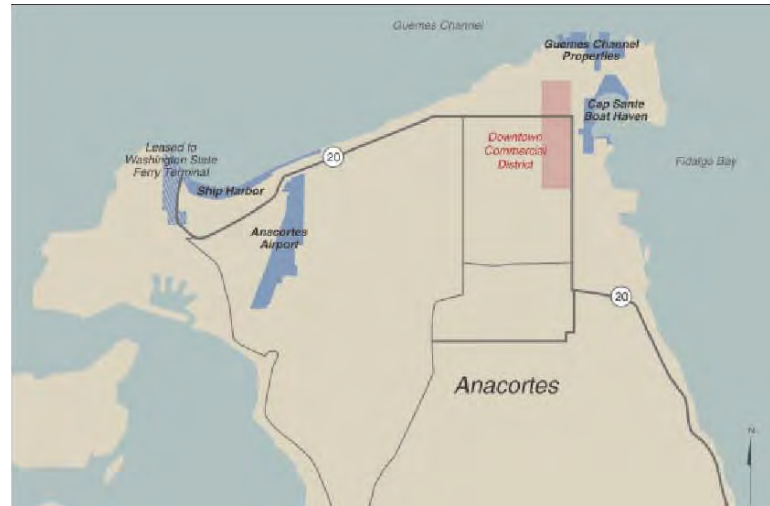
***The Demonstration Farm*** – was purchased in 1994 with funds from a NOAA property acquisition budget to test the effects of agricultural practices on water quality and ecosystem health in the bay, and address long-term solutions using an agricultural research site.

Padilla Bay Reserve is developing an operational plan for the Demonstration Farm with funds from a CZMA Section 308 grant provided by NOAA/OCRM. The operational plan will outline an approach for developing solutions to non-point pollution from agricultural crop production. The Demonstration Farm will provide a valuable link for implementing Section 6217 of the CZMA, as well as local, state, and other federal water quality programs.

Padilla Bay Reserve initiated a collaborative planning process under which demonstration, education, and research activities on the farm will be conducted with local farmers, agribusinesses, Washington State University Agricultural Research & Cooperative Extension, environmental groups, and Padilla Bay Reserve staff.

The plan will be implemented with the same collaborative approach using an advisory panel composed of a similar mix of organizations with expertise, program feedback, and guidance.





## B.8: Port of Anacortes

[www.portofanacortes.com](http://www.portofanacortes.com)



The Port of Anacortes was established in 1926. In 1962 the public authorized an annexation to the Port

District that created the current boundaries. The current port district includes approximately 100 square miles and 23,000 residents. The boundaries include 4 distinct property areas:

- **Cap Sante Boat Haven Area** – supports commercial fishing and a growing variety of commercial ventures, boaters, and tourists. Its open facilities provide one of central Anacortes’ best places to stroll along the water.
- **Guemes Channel Properties** – includes marine-related businesses reliant on deep-draft terminal access.
- **Anacortes Airport** – includes small aircraft ventures and light industrial tenants.
- **Ship Harbor Property** – is leased to the Washington State Ferry System for terminals providing access to the San Juan Islands and Vancouver Island, BC.

The Port is overseen by 5 elected commissioners who represent sub-districts. The Port’s mission is to partner with public agencies and

private business, development and manage facilities and services that stimulate private job creation and commerce, and protect the quality of life, needs, and desires of area residents.

### **Port mission tenets are to:**

- Be a responsible steward of the public resources, and operate in a manner that maintains a high level of public understanding and confidence in the Port’s activities.
- Operate as a primarily self-supporting public enterprise, which will maintain the financial strength necessary to fulfill the Port’s mission on a continuing basis.
- Operate in a manner that avoids displacement of private business activity.
- Establish and maintain sound and ethical management practices in all relations with the Port’s customers, employees, and the community at large.
- Give priority to the fostering of economic developments that directly or indirectly, lead to the creation and maintenance of family wage jobs.
- Concentrate on developments for which the Port is uniquely qualified consisting primarily marine-related activities and transportation.
- Economically or socially justify all new capital projects.

- Provide services and facilities that do not require continuing subsidy.
- Quality of life means appropriate balance among economical, social, and environmental elements.

The Port's 30 full-time employee equivalents (FTEs) produce \$330,000 per employee the highest revenue per employee in Washington State. In 2007, Port properties hosted over 650 jobs, most of which were in manufacturing and repair.

### Comprehensive Plan

Consistent with its mission and in addition to maintaining existing facilities and properties, much of the Port's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan consisted of economic development, environmental stewardship, and public access endeavors. In summary, these efforts included:

- **Economic development** - Anacortes has established itself as a headquarters for ship building and marine-related industries, a vibrant boating center, and a tourism hub. To assist this process, the Port prioritizes opportunities that create stable employment and promote direct and indirect economic benefits to the region.
- **Environmental stewardship** - the Port teamed with the Governor's Puget Sound Initiative to fast-track clean-up of 5 Port-owned properties. This effort, called Focus Fidalgo, integrates clean-up, habitat restoration, redevelopment, and public access improvements in a single, coordinated effort.
- **Public access** - the Port pursues projects that improve the function of its properties while strengthening the community's pedestrian network and open space amenities. The planned Waterfront Loop, a network of pedestrian corridors that will bring the public to the shoreline and connect viewpoints, will be integrated with the Tommy Thompson Parkway and the downtown commercial core.

### Project evaluation criteria

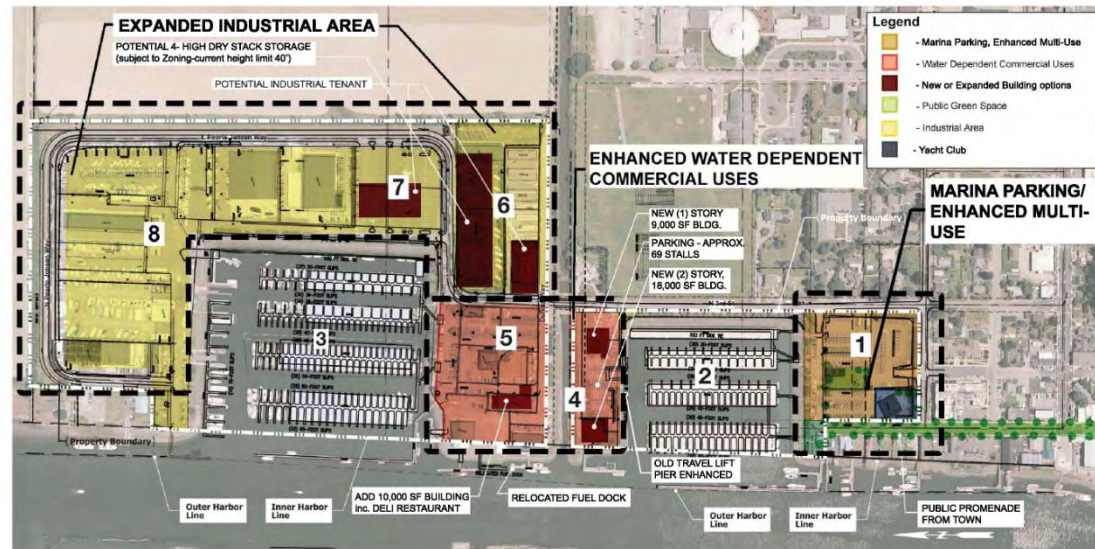
The design, funding, and timing for projects identified in the Comprehensive Plan will depend upon multiple factors, including market demand, financial feasibility, grant availability, and/or private or Port funding sources, and design considerations. Port

Commissioners will evaluate and prioritize projects using a number of evaluation criteria including projects ability to:

- Create partnerships with tenants, environmental groups, associations, governments, etc.
- Retain jobs and stimulate job creation and commerce.
- Protect quality of life by providing public access, amenities, and cultural enhancement.
- Prevent accidents and address public safety issues and comply with regulations.
- Address facility maintenance issues.
- Use funding effectively.



Uplands Preferred Option - Figure 1



Marina Layout - Option 2, Hybrid

## B.9: Port of Skagit County

[www.portofskagit.com](http://www.portofskagit.com)



The Port of Skagit owns and operates 3 key facilities that support 82 businesses and

1,123 employees:

- **Skagit Regional Airport** – is a general aviation facility providing terminal facilities, aviation fuels, a restaurant, and a variety of aircraft maintenance and related services including qualified flight instruction.
- **Bayview Business & Industrial Park** – consists of 1,051.7 acres of forested industrial property including many wetlands interspersed throughout the park and walking trails that connect all parcels. All lots have utilities with a variety of lot sizes that range from 1 to 9 acres.
- **La Conner Marina** – on the Swinomish Channel provides 2 marina basins, 2,400 linear feet of guest moorage, 360 covered berths, 100 open berths, restrooms, showers, and laundry, and a full range of boater's services including service, sales, canvas, and other marine-related.

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Appendix B: Resources  
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

### Incubator and start up program

The Port offers lease rates at 1/3 the normal market rate during a business's first year, 2/3 the normal market rate during the business's second year, and full price by the third year if the business has a sound business plan and strong potential for sales growth. The business may be entitled to up to a 10 year lease in any available port-owned facility if business goals are met.

### Incubator definition:

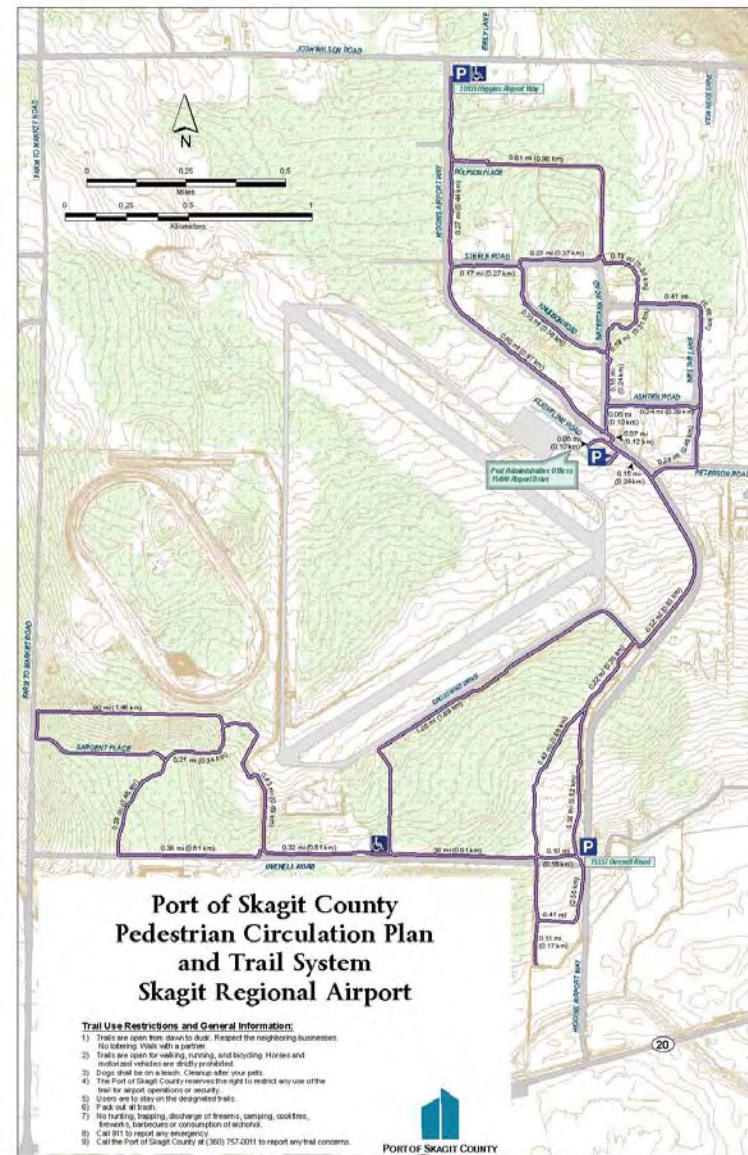
- An existing business moving from a home, garage, yard, or shop.
- Has a business plan defining business goals for employment and revenue over a 3 year period.
- Shows sufficient capital to pay move-in costs and pay operating expenses during incubation period.

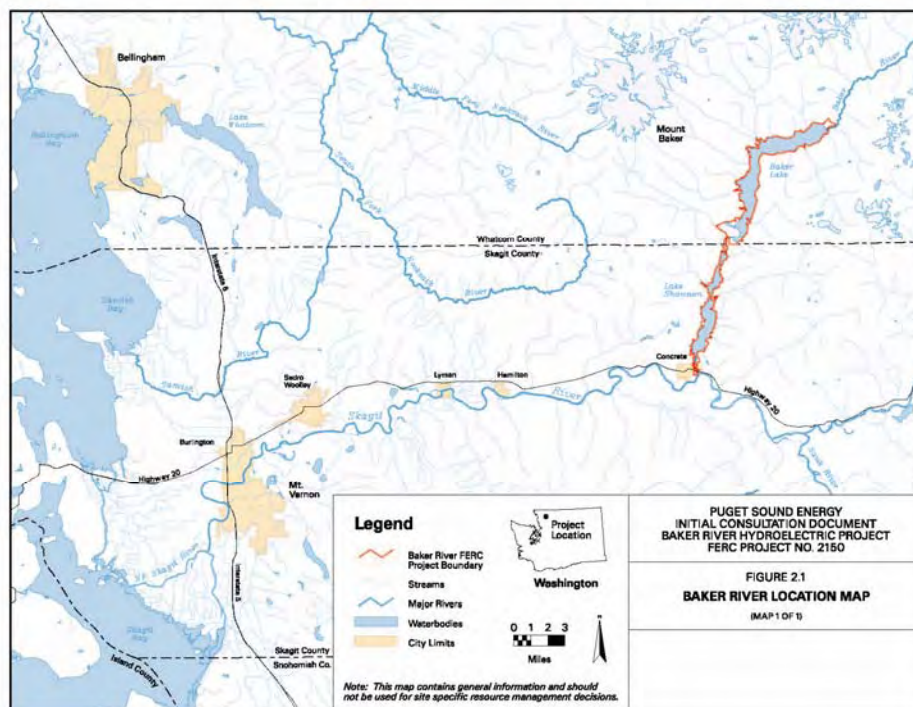
### Start-up definition

- A new business starting operation in a port-owned facility.
- Has a business plan defining business goals for employment and revenue over a 6 year period.



- Shows sufficient capital reserves or financing to purchase equipment and materials, and pay operating expenses during start-up period.
- Lease may be for 6 years with 1/3 fair market value rent for first year, 2/3 fair market value rent for second year, full fair market value rent for third year, and consumer price index (CPI) adjustments for each of the final 3 years.
- The tenant may move to another port-owned facility during the term of the lease without penalty; buy-out the remaining life of the lease for 255 of the rent due in the remaining lease term, or if moving to another facility off port property.





## B.10: Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

[www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com)



Puget Sound Energy (PSE) built and operates 2 hydroelectric dams on the Baker River system – on Baker Lake and Lake Shannon. Both dams are

licensed under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and are subject to federal requirements regarding impacts on fish habitat and recreation. Both dams are also subject to US Geological Survey (USGS) hydrologic requirements regarding flood control.

### ***Baker River Watershed***

Baker River, a tributary of the Skagit River, is the second largest tributary to the Skagit River, with a drainage area of 297 square miles, contributing an average annual flow of about 16% to the Skagit River. The river's headwaters lie in the northeastern section of the basin

along the slopes of Mt Challenger and Whatcom Peak in Whatcom County.

Several entities own lands within the Baker River basin, including the US Forest Service, North Cascades national park, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Puget Sound Energy (PSE).

***The Lower Baker Development*** - was completed in 1925 and is located approximately a half mile north of Concrete upstream from where the Baker and Skagit Rivers meet. The development consists of the 285-foot Lower Baker dam, reservoir, and associated facilities. The powerhouse contains a single generating unit that is capable of producing 70 megawatts of electricity. The reservoir, Lake Shannon, was created following the dam's completion and is approximately 7 miles long.

**The Upper Baker Development** – was completed in 1959 and is located on the Baker River roughly 8 miles north of Concrete. A 312-foot concrete gravity dam and an associated earthen embankment (West Pass dike) impound the Upper Baker reservoir. The Upper Baker powerhouse contains 2 generating units with a collective generation capacity of 105 megawatts of electricity. Baker Lake, the reservoir behind the Upper Baker Dam, is about 9 miles long.

When the Baker River dams were built in the deep gorge they blocked access to about 20 miles of upstream habitat for migrating salmon, particularly coho, Chinook, and sockeye - a run of sockeye that was previously the largest run in Puget Sound. For years the salmon making their way upstream had to take their chances with the turbines, resulting in low survival rates.

PSE has a system in place to transport spawning adults upstream into Baker Lake above the dams and truck young salmon downstream and release them back in the river below the dams. The Baker River now contains the only remaining native population of sockeye in Puget Sound.

#### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**

FERC originally licensed the Baker River Project for 50 years beginning in 1956 and expiring in 2006. Hydroelectric projects regulated by FERC are required to undergo a re-evaluation process, known as relicensing, prior to the date the original licensing expires.

FERC's relicensing process requires extensive planning – including environmental studies, agency consultation, and public involvements. FERC must ensure that resource agencies, tribes, and public participants are including throughout the process.

In 2004, PSE submitted a license application for the Baker River Hydroelectric Project using FERC's Alternative Licensing Procedures, a new licensing process with an emphasis on collaboration and the involvement of interested parties from the beginning. During the process, more than 100 representatives of the public, tribal organizations, governmental agencies, and special interest groups actively participated.

After 5 years, over 400 meetings, and \$15,000,000 in PSE expenses, the Baker River Hydroelectric Project Comprehensive Settlement

Agreement (Settlement Agreement) was signed. A group of stakeholders representing 23 entities is the largest number of collaborators ever to reach a Settlement Agreement with a licensee and present their case to the FERC. The FERC considers the process and Settle Agreement to be the poster-child for future nationwide licensing and relicensing agreements. The signing of the Settlement Agreement was celebrated at the Upper Skagit Indians Tribe's Skagit Valley Casino in 2005.

#### **Mitigation**

Of the \$180,000,000-plus Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement package, approximately 83% is going toward aquatic resources. The bulk of this money will go toward building new adult fish collection facilities at the Baker River fish weir in Concrete, transporting those fish to new propagation facilities up on the reservoirs, rearing the next generation to out-migrant size, collecting the out-migrants without allowing them to go through the turbines, and transporting them to release ponds below the dams.

Because of reservoir fluctuation for flood control, this propagation system will rely heavily on hatchery methods to bring sockeye production up to a point of adult return approximately 5 times the current high of 20,000-plus.

#### **Fish passage**

In 2008 PSE installed a "floating surface collector", a 1,000 ton apparatus floating above Baker Lake's 280-foot deep bottom to attract and safely capture young salmon for transport around PSE 2 Baker River hydropower dams.

The collector is similar to the original PSE 'gulper', a floating system constructed in the late 1950s to simulate swift river current behind a large, deep-water dam in order to attract and capture young salmon. The gulper was quite successful in the beginning, though sockeye runs suddenly and inexplicably plummeted to a record-low 99 fish returning to spawn in 1985.

PSE augmented the first-generation gulper in the late 1980s with the world's first (and still only) deep-reservoir guide-net system. The 2,000-foot shore-to-shore, 280-foot survey-to-bottom net was installed to prevent small fish from entering Upper Baker Dam's turbines, and steering them toward the gulper. The enhanced system produced a

dramatic turnaround increasing the number of adult sockeye returning to the Baker basin to a record 20,225 fish in 2003.

Despite its effectiveness, the old fish-transport system basically wore out. PSE's new floating surface collector has 4 times the capacity of the old gulper, consisting of a \$50,000,000 120-foot-by-60-foot barge equipped with a series of submerged screens, water pumps, fish-holding chambers, a fish-evaluation station, equipment control rooms, and a fish-loading facility.

The new collector's 4 primary water pumps – each 8 feet in diameter – quadruple the old gulper's speed of simulated "river current" in Baker Lake, providing a stronger attraction for young fish. After the fish are captured, a specially designed system of submerged screens slows the water to prevent fish injury as pumped water is returned back into the lake. Fisheries agencies hope for a 90-95% capture rate of Baker Lake juvenile salmon from the new fish collector compared to an estimated 60% capture rate under the old gulper.

Other mitigation projects under the Settlement Agreement include:

- Improvements to PSE's man-made, naturalistic, sockeye spawning beaches along Baker Lake;
- Construction of a new fish hatchery for raising salmon and trout (with a target to tripling production of Baker sockeye fry to 14,500,000 per year);
- PSE construction of a new trap-and-haul facility below Lower Baker Dam for upstream transport of adult salmon; and
- Additional acquisition or enhancement of wetlands and riparian habitat in the Skagit and Baker River systems.

### Water flows

PSE voluntarily releases stored reservoir water during dry summer months to help maintain a targeted minimum flow in the Skagit River with which to protect salmon-egg nests and newly hatching salmon. The target flow of water – about 7,600 cubic feet per second – is collaboratively set by biologists with the National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Skagit River Cooperative.

PSE discharges water from its Lake Shannon and Baker Lake reservoirs to keep the Skagit River's flows above the mark they would otherwise be during natural and drought conditions. During low rainfall, however,

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*Appendix B: Resources  
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan*

the flows are not sufficient to replenish the water released from the reservoirs.

### Flood control

Baker Lake and Lake Shannon also store water that reduces flooding impacts downriver on the Skagit. PSE cooperates with the Corps of Engineers whenever the Skagit River reaches flood stage of 90,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). At flood stage, the Corps takes over operation of the dams and releases water before the flood peak so that when the flood peaks, they can shut off flow from the Baker River system by refilling the reservoirs thereby decreasing the flooding crest on the Skagit. The revenue loss to PSE is reimbursed by a power transfer from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). This flood control arrangement took an act of Congress and is the only one imposed on a private utility in the US.

The crest of these types of floods is what made the Skagit River such good habitat for salmon in the first place. The river would continually wander about in its floodplain, making new side channels every so often. This diverse habitat, as well as the marshes, wetlands, and logjams, made the lower mainstem of the Skagit River the most productive area for choho and Chinook Salmon. Floods were a net benefit to salmon.

The logjams were cleared, the river constrained between dikes, and the wetland filled. Now all fish are forced to span in the channels where the survival rate is lower than in side channels. By reducing side channel habitat, the rest areas have been taken away where fish migrating downstream used to feed and slowly adapt to salinity. Mortification, or the adaption to saltwater, is a critical part of the salmon's maturation. If the fish are flushed into saltwater too early, they do not survive.

PSE and Skagit County are currently studying the engineering, economic, and environmental effects of providing additional storage at the 2 lake reservoirs for enhanced flood control. Both studies are being reviewed and conducted in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

### Recreation and wildlife habitat

As part of FERC relicensing requirements, PSE also constructs and maintains a system of trails and recreational facilities in and around

both lakes. The facilities include a visitor center and boat ramp on Lake Shannon at the Lower Baker Dam, and campground, overlook, boat launch ramps, conference and retreat facilities, and campground and cabins at Baker Lake Lodge and Resort at Upper Baker Dam.

And, PSE has and may acquire and establish additional conservation easements for deciduous forest bird habitat, elk foraging habitat, wetland habitat, and bald eagle habitat. Site selections are made by the Baker River Coordinating Committee/Terrestrial Resources Implementation Group.

### ***Puget Sound Energy Foundation***



In 2006, PSE established the Puget Sound Energy Foundation to provide charitable contributions to qualifying nonprofit organizations in PSE's service territory and in other areas where PSE generates and purchases power. The mission of the foundation is to energize the communities PSE serves with support for innovative programs. The foundation is focused on 4 sectors:

- Human services
- Environmental stewardship
- Education (workforce development)
- Arts and culture

The foundation began accepting grant requests in early 2007. The grants support programmatic and capital projects with measurable goals and outcomes.

In 2007, the Puget Sound Energy Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team (SRBEAT) to assist in the education and program offerings at the Skagit River Interpretive Center in Steelhead Park in Rockport.

PSE has been a cornerstone partner in the Upper Skagit River Bald Eagle Festival over the last 5 years, and the PSE Foundation grant supports the continued education and information work at the Interpretive Center.

SRBEAT focuses on habitat conservation, stewardship and restoration, and offers opportunities to better understand the wildlife of the Skagit watershed, eagles and salmon in particular.

In 2008, the PSE Foundations plans on awarding more than \$600,000 to 73 nonprofits throughout Washington State.

## B.11: Samish Indian Nation

[www.samishtribe.nsn.us](http://www.samishtribe.nsn.us)



The Samish are closely linked to the Lummi and inhabited Samish, Guemes, Eastern Lopez, Cypress, and Fidalgo as well as other islands in the region. The Samish spoke the Lkungen dialect of Coastal Salish or “Straits Salish”. The Samish were a marine-oriented people who collected their subsistence from salmon, shellfish, and other marine life. They also collected sprouts, bulbs, and roots as well as berries and fruits, and hunted waterfowl, shore birds, and deer and elk.

The Samish maintained permanent villages composed of longhouses built of cedar planks during winter months – one of the longest being 1,250 linear feet on the eastern end of Samish Island. During other seasons, they roamed throughout the San Juan Islands to numerous outlying fishing and camping sites.

In the 1840s the Samishes were reduced from over 2,000 members to a single village by measles, small pox, and the ague (flu) and the raids of more-powerful northern tribes. On Samish Bay and Samish Island, the Samishes lived close to the once-powerful Nuwaha villages grouped

by anthropologists with the Skagits, many of whom joined with the Samishes at the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Samishes were known for their canoe making and gift-giving potlatches, which were attended by tribesmen from all over Puget Sound, Vancouver Island, and the Fraser River country. The Samishes’ last large potlatch was held shortly after 1900.

A Nuwaha chief, Pateur (or Pattehus) was said to have signed the 1855 Point Elliott Treaty for the Samishes. Approximately 113 of the 150 Samish members were present at the Treaty signing, though the tribe was left off the final draft of the treaty. After the treaty was ratified, the Samishes were sent to the Lummi and the Swinomish Reservations. Refusing to leave their homelands, many tribal members left the reservations for the territories originally occupied by them including a contingent on Samish Island as late as the 1870s.

Under the Point Elliott Treaty the Samishes were to have had an area set aside for them on the Swinomish Reservation on the western half of March Point. When the reservation boundaries were defined by executive order in 1873, however, the area reserved for the Samish was left out.

As a consequence, a large contingent of the tribe moved to Guemes Island to an area now called Potlatch Beach that was formerly referred to as New Guemes to distinguish it from earlier Samish villages on the island. The Samishes build a longhouse approximately 60 by 480 feet in which over a 100 people lived. Nine principal family heads kept traditional religious beliefs alive in the village.

In 1883, two Samish headmen applied for and received trust allotments for the Guemes Island property under the Homestead Act which protected them for a 20-year period expiring in 1903. Because the Samishes had the only fresh water on the island, much pressure was exerted on them and by 1912 they were forced off their lands as they had been forced off Samish Island some 50 years earlier.

After the breakup of the Guemes Island village, some Salishes remained as squatters, and others moved into various communities in Samish country. Throughout the 1890s and 1900s the Samishes continued to occupy fishing villages on Lopez and Cypress Island in the San Juan Islands, and traveled throughout the islands in large 36 foot long canoes.

The Samishes developed a political organization as early as 1907 and met in their longhouse on Guemes Island and later in Anacortes. Around 1918 the Lower (Samish Flat or Stick Samish) Nuwahas merged with the Samishes. In 1926 the Samishes organized under a formal constitution and bylaws, which were subsequently amended in 1951, 1965, and 1974. In 1996 they were finally and formally recognized by the federal government as the Samish Indian Tribe. Other legal issues regarding the tribe's status are still being clarified in the federal courts

#### *The Samish today*

The Samish Indian Nation is a federally recognized Indian Tribe and a sovereign nation. The executive governing body is the 11-member Samish Indian Senate elected to oversee the welfare and



resources of the Tribe, its constitution, economic development, policies, legislation, enrollment, and justice. The Tribe provides the following services:

- Housing
- Preschool and elders services
- Commodities
- Health care and wellness
- Social services
- Cultural restoration and celebration
- Education assistance
- Library and mentoring
- Internet access

#### *Department of Natural Resources*

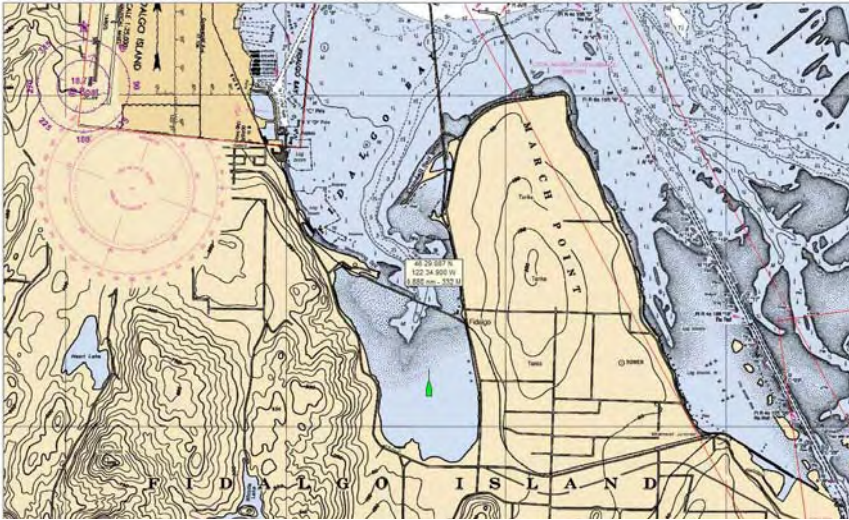
The Samish Indian Nation established the Department of Natural Resources in 2001 to manage a variety of natural resource related grants, studies, and projects of interest. In 2006, as part on an ongoing strategic planning process, the Tribal Council transitioned several environmental and natural resources programs under the Department of Natural Resources including the Center for the Study of Coast Salish Environments.

The mission of the Samish Indian Nation Natural Resource Department is to preserve, protect, and enhance all natural resources within the Samish historical and cultural territory by helping integrate community values, and ecosystem health in every decision that upholds the Tribes Sovereign right for protection of all natural resources.

At the present time, the Department is engaged in a number of water quality studies and projects on Lake Campbell and Lake Erie, Fidalgo Bay, Weaverling Spit, Thomas Creek, and the Fidalgo Bay Watershed in association with the Corps of Engineers, Western Washington University, Northwest Indian Fish Commission, Washington State Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Ecology, Skagit Land Trust, City of Anacortes, and others.

- *Fidalgo Bay Water Quality Study* - is one of the larger projects being conducted by the Department of Natural Resources. The 1,575-acre water body has been studied along the eastern shores and around March Point close to the refinery, but not in the southern and western shores of the bay. The Department is conducting a 4-year study to collect and analyze data concerning existing surface water conditions and to identify and quantify existing and potential pollutant sources.

The study will also perform an underwater inspection of the railroad/trail rock causeway and railroad trestle crossing Fidalgo Bay that is used as the Tommy Thompson Trail. The inspection will inventory the existing structure and pilings and determine soundness of submerged structures prior to removal.





## B.12: Sauk-Suiattle

[www.sauk-suiattle.com](http://www.sauk-suiattle.com)



The Sauk-Suiattles (Sah-Ku-Me-Hu) are the descendants of peoples of the upper Skagit River watershed that were designated as Skagits by government treaty makers. The Sauk-Suiattle's subsistence patterns and dialect varied from those of the other Skagit peoples of the lower Skagit River and Puget Sound as they had frequent contacts with tribes that resided on the east side of the Cascades.

Their ancestors occupied 5 winter houses, which were situated from the mouth of the Sauk River upstream to Sauk Prairie, an important gathering place of several tribes. They lived farther upstream in summer months. The Sauk-Suiattle were hunters, gatherers, and fishermen in and around the Sauk Prairie area now known as the present town of Darrington.

The Sauk-Suiattle were canoe people, plying the waters of the Sauk, Suiattle, Stillaguamish, Cascade, and Skagit Rivers. Though they lived in the foothills of the North Cascades, they often traveled downriver to Puget Sound to harvest fish, shellfish, and other foods not available in the mountains where they voyaged in large seagoing canoes.

The Sauk-Suiattle also traveled over the Cascades to gather food, herbs, and other necessities. They traded with tribes from eastern Washington acquiring horses and becoming skilled horsemen.

At the time of the Point Elliott Treaty signing in 1855, the Sauk villagers were known as the Sakhumehus and Sabbu-uqus. Their chief, Wawsitkin, refused to sign the treaty because he feared that his people would not receive a reservation of their own if he did. A sub-chief, Dahtldemin, however, did sign.

In 1884, settlers burned a native village of 8 large cedar-board longhouses at the confluence of the Skagit and Sauk Rivers on land that non-Indian settlers had laid claim to under the US Homestead Act. As encroachments continued, some tribal members moved to the Swinomish and other reservations in the region.

In 1946 the Sauk-Suiattles became a tribal entity separate from the Upper Skagits. Tribal affairs are handled by a 7-member council under a constitution and bylaws which were approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 1975. The tribe provides the following services:

- Public safety including tribal police services within the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation and surrounding area,
- Health and social services,
- Daycare and pre-school including family support services,
- Housing including 19 HUD houses,
- Legal services for the Tribal Council, and
- Natural Resources Department

In 1973, the tribe received federal recognition due to their owning a small base of land in common with the Upper Skagits, as well as scattered individual public-domain allotments in Skagit County. The tribe also has fishing rights recognized under the Point Elliott Treaty.

#### **Natural Resources Department**

The tribe established a Natural Resource Department to enhance the well-being of the tribe by:

- Providing services that built the internal capabilities of the Tribe,
- Developing Tribal regulations, and
- Managing Tribal resources in an environmentally responsible manner that fit the Tribe's goals, culture, and philosophy.

The Department works with other Tribal departments to ensure the Tribe complies with federal regulations and all aspects of land use, utilities, and projects done for the Tribe provide the best possible beneficial use of its resources.

The tribe is a member of the Skagit System Cooperative organized in 1976 to regulate and enhance fishing in the Skagit River system.



### B.13: Seattle City Light (SCL)

[www.seattle.gov/light/environment/fish](http://www.seattle.gov/light/environment/fish)



Making electricity has impacts on the environment. But Seattle City Light (City Light or SCL) wants to make these *light impacts* so SCL operates their business with a commitment to environmental stewardship. SCL's fish and wildlife programs on the Skagit, their

partnerships in environmental education and recreation, and their in-house environmental management are *light impact* in action.

***Light impact*** - is a system for managing environmental and safety workplace goals. Environmental stewardship is a SCL core value. SCL is also committed to providing a safe workplace for all employees. Light Impact provides the structure to plan environment and safety-related goals, to take action toward

meeting those goals, to check their progress, and then to see where improvements need to be made.

Through Light Impact SCL will:

- Achieve and maintain compliance with environmental and safety regulations and policies.
- Reduce negative impacts to the environment through pollution prevention, waste management and water quality programs and fish and wildlife programs.
- Reduce negative impacts to worker health and safety through health and safety programs.
- Continually improve the environment and SCL safety performance.

Salmon are responding to these efforts. Chum and pink stocks spawning below the Skagit River are “extremely healthy, at or near the level they would be with no human intervention” (American Fisheries Society). Chinook stocks in this area are stable and the steelhead stock is healthy.

Bald eagles have benefited also. The healthy chum runs are a reliable food source that supports the largest population of overwintering bald eagles in the contiguous United States.

### Wildlife

Seattle City Light developed a comprehensive program to address the needs of wildlife that are affected by their operations. Key aspects of this program include preserving valuable habitat and providing support for wildlife and ecosystems research and monitoring. City Light developed the wildlife program in tandem with local resource specialists, utilizing their detailed knowledge of the needs of the wildlife.

### Land acquisition program

To protect critical habitat for wildlife, City Light began purchasing key parcels of land in 1991. Examples of acquisitions include wetlands, upland, and riverine habitats. Target species, such as the bald eagle, influence some purchases but the goal is to benefit multiple species.

Seattle City Light teamed with state and federal resources agencies, Native American tribes, and several conservation organizations to protect more than 14,000 acres in the Skagit and South Fork

Nooksack River basins. Of this total acreage, City Light owns more than 8,000.

### Partnerships

City Light joined in partnership with a number of other agencies to preserve wildlife habitat including:

- National Park Service (NPS) - Seattle City Light annually provides funds to the NPS for wildlife monitoring. Examples of projects include population monitoring for bats and harlequin ducks. City Light also provides a research laboratory for the NPS to conduct research on wildlife and the ecosystems they depend on.
- United States Forest Service (USFS) - In support of the USFS's efforts to protect bald eagles in the Skagit River basin, Seattle City Light provides funds for monitoring and planning for this species.
- Land Trusts - secure long-term protection for areas with special significance. Seattle City Light works closely with groups such as The Nature Conservancy and River Network to protect critical habitats for wildlife.

### Wildlife Research Program (WRP)

The mission of the Wildlife Research Program is to support research on wildlife resources and wildlife habitats existing in the US portion of the North Cascades ecosystem, including the Skagit watershed. WRP goals are to:

Research - To facilitate the development of new scientific information and methods that extend the understanding, management, and protection of wildlife and ecosystems in the North Cascades, including the Skagit watershed, by:

- Encouraging research that focuses on applied science and management, while still considering projects with broader applicability.
- Encouraging research that meets the long-term wildlife and ecosystem research needs for the North Cascades
- Ensuring that all research that is funded by the Wildlife Research Program meets high professional scientific standards.

**Collaboration** - To promote interagency/organizational research partnerships (i.e., agencies, tribes, academic institutions, the public, etc.) to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, by:

- Encouraging innovative research studies which involve and benefit multiple land and resource management agencies;
- Encouraging grant proposals which utilize multiple funding sources.

**Education** - To contribute to the education and training of new researchers and investigators, primarily graduate students, by:

- Ensuring that all major colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) receive information about the Wildlife Research Program in a timely and effective manner;
- Giving greater value to proposals that provide a graduate research component.

**Dissemination** - To ensure that information generated by the Wildlife Research Program is easily accessed by natural resource professionals, academic researchers, environmental educators, and the general public, by:

- Requiring research reporting that includes multiple channels for disseminating reports and information funded by the Wildlife Research Program;
- Making the results of Wildlife Research Program projects available on a website;
- Requiring grant recipients to present the results of their studies at an annual researcher's meeting.

### **Representative Projects**

Projects that will be given strong consideration include those that:

- Improve the understanding and management of rare, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, habitats, communities and ecosystems, and the biological diversity of the North Cascades and Skagit watershed;
- Contribute to the understanding, control, and eradication (if needed) of invasive exotic plant and animal species in forests, riparian areas, alpine lakes and other sensitive habitats;
- Monitor the effectiveness of management activities (such as restrictions on human uses, road closures, placement of artificial habitat structures, silviculture treatments, planned

dispersal areas etc.) used by resource management agencies to mitigate the impacts of human-induced disturbances;

- Contribute to the management and protection of wildlife species (e.g., grizzly bear, mountain goat, deer, and elk) that are of most concern and importance to the tribes of the Skagit watershed;
- Improve the understanding of how natural processes (such as flooding, fire, migratory and dispersal patterns etc.) have been modified by the Skagit Project and other human-induced ecosystem modifications;
- Establish long-term ecological monitoring, baseline inventories, and pilot studies to understand, manage, and protect the ecological health of sensitive habitats, communities, and ecosystems.

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### **Wildlife research program grants**

Seattle City Light offers wildlife research funds to qualifying applicants. The Wildlife Research Program (WRP) was established in response to federal licensing requirements related to the Skagit River Hydroelectric Project. The primary goal of the WRP is to facilitate the development of improved methods for the understanding, management, and protection of wildlife resources in the North Cascades ecosystem. A secondary goal of the program is to contribute to the training of new researchers and investigators.

### **Key criteria to qualify for research funds:**

- Projects must meet all of the WRP's goals as outlined in the Mission and Goals statement;
- Selected projects should complement, contribute to, or build onto the existing body of wildlife research;
- Professional standards must be met for all research funded;
- Projects may not duplicate or substitute for usual agency responsibilities and programs;
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to contribute in-kind services and/or obtain additional funding from other sources;

The application process is competitive through the pre-proposal and full proposal stages. If an applicant is invited to submit a full proposal, there is no guarantee that an award will be made for that project.

### Program funding:

- The annual WRP budget is approximately \$85,000 through 2025. The amount of funds disbursed in a given year will depend on the quality of the proposals received; if qualifying proposals are not received, the funds for that year will be added to the next year's budget;
- Grant awards are likely to range from \$5,000 to \$30,000; however, larger awards have been made. The Wildlife Research Advisory Committee (WRAC) may choose to commit future funds to a proposal received in a given year. If this happens, one or more years may pass before additional funds become available.



### Process:

- The Wildlife Research Advisory Committee (WRAC), which oversees the WRP, reviews and selects pre-proposals that best meet the program's goals. All applicants are notified in writing of their pre-proposal status;
- Applicants with pre-proposals that pass through the initial screening will be invited to submit a complete proposal. Full proposal guidelines will be mailed to all qualifying applicants along with their notification letter. The WRAC may ask some qualifying applicants to modify their proposals;
- The full proposals will be distributed to independent peer reviewers for scientific review. Peer review comments will be provided to applicants who have submitted a full proposal;
- The WRAC will make final selection and funding decisions; these decisions will be based on how well the proposal meets the WRP's goals and whether the peer reviews are favorable;
- Funds will be made available once successful applicants have entered into a grant agreement with Seattle City

Light.

### Contracts and funding:

Successful proponents must enter into a contract with Seattle City Light that stipulates the conditions that must be met during the term of the funding award. 10% of the final contract amount is withheld until the applicant has completed all contract requirements and submitted a final invoice. Researchers may only submit invoices for work that has actually been completed; no up-front payments are made.

While there may be more than one principal investigator for a project, one agency/organization must assume the lead role. For each project, Seattle City Light enters into a grant agreement with only one agency/organization; multi-party agreements are not permissible.

### Priorities research topics

The resource agencies on the Wildlife Research Advisory Committee have identified a number of priorities for wildlife research in the Skagit watershed and North Cascades/western Okanogan ecoregions:

### U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) habitat use, population estimate, and/or demographic rates
- Mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) demographic rates
- Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) nesting habitat selection
- Effects of noise and human disturbance on marbled murrelet nesting behavior and productivity.
- Northern spotted owl/barred owl (*Strix occidentalis/Strix varia*) interactions
- Quality of potentially suitable habitat and abundance of potential prey for the Pacific fisher (*Martes pennanti*)
- Evaluation of Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) reintroduction sites.
- Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and gray wolves (*Canus lupus*): habitat use, population estimates, and/or demographic rates of these species.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Impacts/benefits of the hydroelectric projects in the Skagit watershed.

- Federal or state candidate, threatened or endangered wildlife species in the North Cascades (includes spotted owl, marbled murrelet, wolverine, fisher, grizzly bear, gray wolf)
- Priority species or animal aggregations, as identified by federal or state agencies or tribes for the North Cascades, because of their population status, sensitivity to habitat alteration, and/or recreational, commercial, or tribal importance (elk, mountain goats, etc.)
- Wildlife or ecosystem relationships for WDFW's Priority habitats in the Skagit watershed (see <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phshabs.htm>)

North Cascades National Park:

- Occurrence, distribution, habitat use, and demographics of wolverines and lynx in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex.
- Demographic rates of mountain goats.
- Effects of recreational use on wildlife species (for example, corvids as an indicator in campsites or trail corridors; effects on mountain goat behavior and demographics; impacts on marmot populations or behavior).
- Abundance, distribution, habitat use, and/or demographic rates of wolves in the North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Is there a breeding pack of wolves within the park?
- Abundance and distribution of coyotes (*Canus latrans*). Is their distribution expanding due to climate change and development?
- Are wildlife species (deer, elk, goats, bear, etc) being hunted at sustainable levels?
- Abundance, distribution, and genetic diversity of the Cascade frog (*Rana cascadae*) within the North Cascades
- Distribution of the northern spotted owl in the North Cascades.
- Distribution, abundance, and population dynamics of high-elevation mammal populations including marmots, pikas, heather voles.
- Impacts of climate change on wildlife within the North Cascades ecosystem and responses of wildlife to climate change For example:

- What species are expected to be most affected by climate change or the combination of climate change and on-going habitat conversion outside NCNP boundaries?
- Are high-elevation pollinator populations changing?
- How is climate or the combination of climate and habitat fragmentation influencing the distribution of predators? And how will changes in predator distributions change prey abundance and distribution - is this already occurring?
- How will or is climate affecting high-elevation mammal populations such as marmots, pikas, heather voles?
- What is the status of ptarmigan populations? Will they be or are they already affected by climate change?
- Are species that are on the edge of their range changing in distribution or abundance due to climate change (e.g. red squirrels and Columbia ground squirrels)?
- Are hybridization rates along suture lines (such as red squirrel and Douglas squirrel) changing with the influence of climate change?



## B.14: Skagit Conservation District (SCD)

[www.skagitcd.org](http://www.skagitcd.org)



The Skagit Conservation District (SCD) is dedicated to maintaining Skagit County's renewal natural resources. The District is composed of farmers, landowners, and concerned citizens.

The SCD is a legal subdivision of Washington State government organized under "Conservation District Law" RCW Title 89, Chapter 89.08.

The SCD is administered by a 5-member board of supervisors made up of local landowners. The board is assisted by other volunteers who serve as Associate Supervisors. The SCD is a member of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The board provides the on-the-ground assistance for Best Management Practices (BMP's) to District cooperators and landowners from the SCD staff and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). Cost-shared assistance is obtained for implementation of specific BMP's through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as incentives to cooperators.

District priorities and goals include:

- Protect and improve the quality of surface and ground water
- Watershed planning and implementation
- Riparian reforestation and enhancement
- Forest stewardship
- Wildlife habitat enhancement
- Conservation education

- Protection and preservation of prime farmlands
- County government assistance
- Increase district capacity

These goals are met through SCD's extensive technical assistance and public outreach programs. SCD staff work with private partners, state, and federal agencies, agricultural and environmental organizations, and other conservation districts. The SCD is funded through grants, an annual native plant sale, and state general-fund money requiring a dollar-for-dollar match.

Much of the technical assistance provided to landowners and land users consist of helping them adopt conservation BMPs. SCD technicians provide farm conservation planning services free of charge to cooperators who request assistance. The SCD Service Forester uses an ecosystem management approach in Forest Stewardship planning services offered to non-industrial private forest landowners.

SDC public outreach and education efforts including hosting workshops on many topics including septic system maintenance, livestock management, forest management, and encouraging citizen involvement in watershed protection. SCD's education and volunteer programs include Watershed Masters, Beach Monitors, and Stream Team as well as working with schools to foster development of environmentally aware adults.

The SCD has a proven track record for putting conservation on the ground and involving volunteers in watershed education, monitoring, and restoration projects. The SCD's programs reduce soil erosion and prevent sediment build-up, Help dairies achieve nutrient management

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standards, increase wildlife habitat on private land, establish riparian enhancement projects, target shellfish protection by correcting nonpoint pollution, and education local citizens about their watersheds.

#### SCD operations:

- Encourages and promotes the preservation and optimum beneficial use of agriculture, range, and forested lands.
- Helps landowners plan and implement “Best Management Practices” (BMP) that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality and water conservation, as well as protect the natural resource base of SCD.
- Provides education and technical assistance to non-industrial forest landowners.
- Furnishes soils information, conservation maps, and knowledge of BMO’s to landowners and land managers.
- Implements program aimed at protecting the water resources of Skagit County.
- Initiates surveys, research studies, comprehensive plans, demonstration, and implementation projects on public and private lands within the District.
- Conducts responsible and accountable management and financial business.
- Provides federal, state, and local governmental agencies with conservation leadership.

#### SCD engineering services

SCD offers civil and environmental engineering services for soil, water, and habitat conservation projects in Skagit County. SCD works with private landowners, non-government organizations, dike and drainage districts, and tribal and local government agencies to provide assistance with project planning, feasibility studies, engineering design, permitting and construction management on projects that help conserve natural resources. In some situations, SCD assists in obtaining grant funding for project construction.

SCD’s engineering services program specializes in designing and permitting wetland and salmon habitat restoration and enhancement projects. Recent projects have included:

- Stream channel design
- Replacing culverts to improve fish passage

- Fish ways
- Modification of tide gates to allow tidal flow and fish passage
- Constructed wetlands
- Bioengineering bank and shoreline stabilization

Selected recent wetland and salmon habitat engineering projects include the following:

- Port Stanley Lagoon Tidal Flow Restoration - on Lopez Island that replaced a conventional tidegate at the outlet of Lopez Island’s estuary.
- Dry Slough Fish Passage and Tidal Flow Restoration - on Fir Island implemented a mitigation project involving installation of a self regulation tidegate through a dike to restore fish passage and tidal influence into Dry Slough in cooperation with Skagit County Dike District 22.
- No Name Slough Feasibility Study and Stormwater Management Projects - carried out an assessment of environmental conditions in a small coastal watershed and used the result to complete an engineering feasibility study and concept design of several projects to improve water quality, drainage, and in-stream habitat in the watershed.
- Crescent Harbor Salt Marsh Restoration - on Whidbey Island designed and constructed with the assistance of Naval Air Station Whidbey and the Skagit River System Cooperative a suite of projects to restore tidal connectivity into 200 acres of the Crescent Harbor salt marsh.
- Tenmile Creek Channel Restoration - in Whatcom County removed about 300 feet of creek from an agricultural drainage ditch to a constructed channel matching local “reference morphological and in-stream habitat conditions.
- Cascade River Park Fish Passage Improvements - in Skagit County worked the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group and the Cascade River Park homeowners association to remove 4 culverts that blocked fish passage.
- McClellan Creek Fishway Construction - in Whatcom County worked with WDFW and a large agricultural landowner to design, permit, and construct fish passage improvements past 2 irrigation water impound dams on McClellan Creek.
- Fidalgo Bay Shoreline Stabilization - in Anacortes working with a private landowner and the city of Anacortes to design and permit a project to stabilize and eroding shoreline on Fidalgo Bay.

- **Samish River Bioengineered Bank Stabilization** - in Skagit County worked with a private landowner to design, permit, and construct an innovative bioengineered bank stabilization project along the Samish River.

**Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), is a new tool for landowners. CREP enhances and protects water quality, fish habitat, and stream stability through the use of riparian buffers. The program is flexible, administered locally, designed to compensate the landowner for being a good land steward, and helps address Endangered Species Act (ESA) concerns.

CREP is a voluntary program to establish forested buffers along streams where riparian habitat is a significant limiting factor for salmonids. In addition to providing fish and wildlife habitat, the buffers improve water quality and increase stream stability.

Land enrolled in CREP is removed from production and grazing, under 10-15 year contracts. In return, landowners receive annual rental payments and signing bonuses. Landowners are reimbursed for 100% of the eligible costs for buffer establishment and maintenance. In addition, landowners may be reimbursed for livestock exclusion fencing, livestock watering facilities, and in the case of small stream, livestock crossings.



CREP pays to remove invasive plants such as red canary grass and Himalayan blackberry - which do not provide beneficial riparian functions, and whose rapid growth often displaces native plants.

**CREP flexibility**

CREP recognizes site variability. The buffer boundary can be moved toward or away from the stream at different locations to meet landowner needs, as long as the average meets the buffer standard. Producers can enroll all or a portion of the eligible streams on their land. They can enroll one or both sides of the stream. There is no minimum of maximum acreage to enroll.

The program is administered by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). A Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Resource Specialist will visit the property to make a no-obligation site assessment. The Resource Specialist will discuss buffer design options and provide estimates of the rental rate and signing bonus.





### ***B.15: Skagit County Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB)***

***www.skagitcounty.net***

The Skagit County Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) makes recommendations to the Skagit County Commissioners and the County Administrator on agricultural plans, policies, and programs concerning:

- existing and proposed legislation and regulations affecting agriculture;
- land uses as they impact agriculture;
- ways to maintain, enhance, and promote agriculture and agricultural products in the region; and
- any other agricultural issues as requested by the County Commissioners and/or consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The Agriculture Advisory Board (AAB) is comprised of a 12 member County Commissioner appointed board that includes 4 members from each of the 3 Commissioner District, a representative from Washington State University Agriculture Extension, and a staff representative from the Skagit County Planning & Development Services Department. The Board also has a Skagit County Natural Resources Lands Policy Coordinator.

Board members serve 3-year terms that can be reappointed and are staggered to ensure a consistency on the committee.

The Board's sub-committees are working on the following issues:

- Flooding as it affects agriculture lands
- Drainage and irrigation
- Critical Areas Ordinance and agriculture related buffers
- Agriculture land conversions
- Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code updates

***Links to related information:***

WSU Skagit County Extension: <http://skagit.wsu.edu/>

Western Washington Ag Assoc.;

<http://www.fidalgo.net/~wwaa/homepage.htm>

Washington Farm Bureau: <http://www.wsfb.com/>

Cattleman: <http://www.washingtoncattlemen.org/index.htm>

Dairy: <http://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/dairy/>



## ***B.16: Skagit County Forest Advisory Board (FAB)***

[www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net)

The Skagit County Forest Advisory Board (FAB) advises and makes recommendations to the Skagit County Commissioners and the County Administrator on forestry plans, policies, and programs including, but not limited to:

- existing and proposed legislation and regulations affecting forest lands in Skagit County, local forest product and affiliated industries;
- land uses as they impact forestry; ways to maintain, enhance and promote active forest management and the related forest product manufacturing in the County; and
- any other forestry issues as requested by the County Commissioners and/or consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The FAB is comprised of a 12 member County Commissioner appointed board that includes 4 members from each commissioner district. Board members serve 3-year terms that can be reappointed and are staggered to ensure a consistency on the committee.

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The Board is currently working on the following issues:

### ***Forest Practices and Timber Supply***

Washington State forests are among the highest quality, most productive and efficiently operable in the world. Washington has very stringent Forest Practice rules and a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), which has caused the elimination of additional acres of productive timber land in attempting to provide some regulatory certainty. It is imperative that rules affecting forest management be developed pursuant to complete scientific analysis to ensure that the viability of both the public resources and the forest practices industry are protected.

- Regulatory restrictions on domestic timber supply have pushed demand outside the Country, where environmental laws are less stringent or non-existent.
- With the shut-down of the Federal lands to timber harvesting and the ever increasing demand for forest products, the pressure for resource materials has shifted to private land owners.

- The cost of regulation is making it more attractive for forest landowners to convert their forest land to uses other than timber production.

### **Forest Health**

Forest health, which is the result of the affects of both disease and fire threat, is a major concern for all Skagit County residents. Recreational users, forest managers and urban dwellers are all affected by declining forest management that would otherwise promote healthy forests. Skagit County must adopt policies that allow and encourage improvement of forest health and reduction of fire hazard.

- Lack of management on Federal lands may cause devastating forest health issues that can migrate to all other adjacent land owners.
- The County should encourage participation in fire planning such as Fire-wise Program.
- Encourage forest land owners to utilize programs and available funding sources to help in managing forests.

### **Economic Contribution**

Government ownership and special land use set asides shift the tax base and land use options to smaller areas and fewer users. Government entities should manage their lands to provide an economic base for the local economy. Lands set aside should not enjoy special tax incentives; and recreational opportunities on those lands must be available to all citizens.

- Although rich in renewable natural resources, the largest landowner in Skagit County, the United States Forest Service, provides little to the tax base or economy of Skagit County.
- GMA supports maintaining the viability of resource based industries – conflicting land uses should be eliminated.
- Global Warming – Active intensive management of lands to generate forest products is known to increase levels of carbon sequestration as compared to no action. Actively managed forest lands provide carbon sequestration, which provides cleaner air, clean water, habitat for fish and wildlife and provide an overall benefit to the public at the expense of individual landowners.

### **Local Issues**

Continue to monitor and support issues of statewide long-term significance.

- Blanchard Mountain Plan
- Whatcom County lawsuit
- Skagit County Comprehensive Plan
- No net loss of productive forest land

### **Links to related information:**

Future of Forestry Forum:

<http://www.nwenvironmentalforum.org/2008handouts.html> ;

Forest Practice Rules:

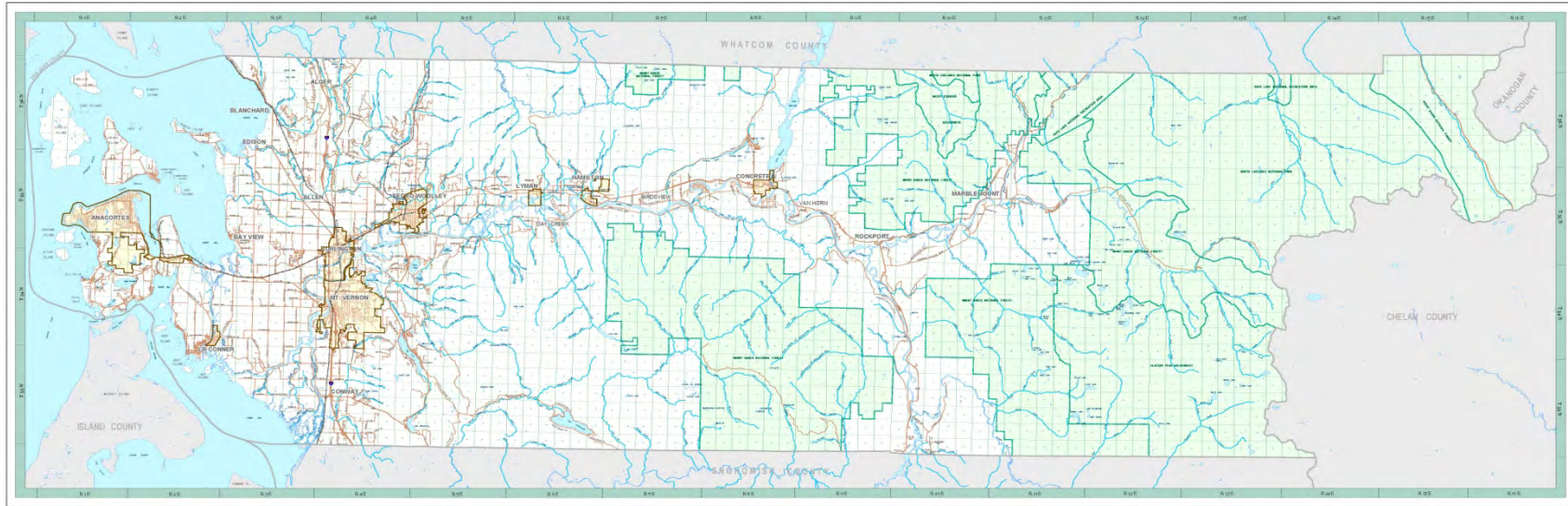
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticeRules/Pages/fp\\_fpi.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticeRules/Pages/fp_fpi.aspx)

DNR offices:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/AboutDNR/Regions/Pages/Default.aspx> ;

Blanchard Forest, a working forest:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/StateTrustLandsForestManagement/Pages/blanchard\\_forest.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/StateTrustLandsForestManagement/Pages/blanchard_forest.aspx)



## B.17: Skagit County

[www.skagitcounty.net](http://www.skagitcounty.net)



Eleven Native American groups inhabited the area now known as Skagit County – the Chobahabish, Kikialius, Nooquachamish,

Mesekwiguilse, Sbaloch, Misskaihwah, Sakhumehhu, Noowahatah, Squinahmish, Swinomish, and Samish.

Skagit County was originally part of Whatcom County but was split off in 1883 and named after the local Native American Tribe. The county is approximately 1,735 square miles in area, 24 miles from north to south, and 95 miles from east to west.

The county contains diverse features including glaciated peaks just over 9,000 feet above sea level at Mount Logan in North Cascades National Park, rolling foothills surrounding the 90-mile Skagit River, the second-largest river in the state, the river floodplain and delta, and the leeward islands of the San Juan Archipelago.

### Historical development

La Conner - the first non-native intruders to the area built a small number of cabins on Fidalgo Island in 1858. Settlement spread to the head of Fidalgo Bay with dike improvements opening the tidal flats to farming. The first trading post was established in the La Conner area in 1867. By 1870, the lower Skagit Valley was beginning to be partially settled though travel was limited to boats. Monthly steamboat services were initiated between Seattle and Skagit City in 1874.

Lyman - was settled in the early 1870s with the development of a lumber and shingle mill.

Mount Vernon - 2 large log jams on the Skagit River initially limited the development of Mount Vernon. The jams were dismantled in 1874 opening portions of the river channel to navigation. The channel was completely cleared 10 years later allowing navigation to up river settlements, logging areas, and coal and iron mines. By 1889 at least 15 steamboats provided service between Seattle and Mount Vernon. The Great Northern Railway (GN) extended rail service to Mount Vernon in 1891.

**Burlington** - a logging camp was established in the Burlington area in 1882 with several shingle mills to follow. By 1891, the Great Northern Railway (GN) made Burlington the center of transportation.

**Sedro-Woolley** - up river navigation in 1884 spurred development of the towns of Sedro (a Spanish reference to the large cedars in the area) and Woolley (named after the founder of a lumber mill) which merged to form the city of Sedro-Woolley.

**Anacortes** - speculation activities over a possible railroad extension to Anacortes generated a growth boom in the settlement in 1890. Although Anacortes never became a terminus, the railroad still caused construction of shingle mills, fish plants, lumber mills, and a box factory.

**Marblemount** - began as a tent saloon and later trading post during the 1890s gold rush.

**Hamilton** - was established in the early 1900s to mine local coal and iron deposits.

**Rockport** - was founded in 1901 as the eastern terminus of the railroad line from Anacortes.

**Concrete** - was founded in 1909 following the discovery and mining of limestone deposits.

Skagit County had a population of 102,978 persons in the year 2000 of which 68,868 or 67% resided within urban areas. By the year 2025, the county is expected to have a population of 149,080 persons or 45% more than in the year 2000 of which 105,750 or 71% will reside within urban areas.

### **Land use**

Skagit County includes 1,109,112 acres of which:

- 47% or 519,342 acres are located within public open space of regional or statewide importance (OSRSI),
- 43% or 473,779 acres are located within natural resource zone



- lands for forest, rural, or agriculture purposes,
- 7% or 81,204 acres are located within rural village, intermediate, and reserve lands,
- 0.06% or 703 acres are located within commercial and industrial lands outside of incorporated areas and urban growth areas, and
- 3.1% or 34,084 acres are located within incorporated cities or urban growth areas of which 67% or 22,675 acres are within incorporated cities.

The county has a variety of open space lands including greenbelt corridors within and around urban growth areas, greenbelts connecting critical areas, land receiving open space tax incentives, resource lands, conservation easements, rural open space areas, park lands, and significant historic, archaeological, scenic, and cultural lands.

As a result of the planning effort being conducted herein, the county will develop a program to identify and prioritize open space corridors and greenbelts within and between UGA that include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connections of critical areas. The program will include a list identifying and prioritizing open space and greenbelt lands desirable for public acquisition of title or development rights. Any potential acquisition that may be proposed will not include any condemnation acts; any potential acquisition for land for open space or greenbelts shall only be achieved by voluntary donation, CaRD subdivision, or mutually agreeable sale.

### **Open spaces, parks, and trails**

Public agencies own 579,784.5 acres of land within Skagit County for park and recreation purposes of which:

- 95.8% or 555,200 acres are owned by the National Forest or National Park Service,
- 3.2% or 18,602.1 acres are owned by the State of Washington Parks & Recreation Commission for State Parks, Department of Natural Resources for timber harvest, or Department of Fish & Wildlife for fish hatcheries or water fishing access,
- 0.7% or 3,799.4 acres are owned by cities and towns,
- 0.3% or 1,710.3 acres are owned by Skagit County Parks & Recreation (SCPR), and
- 0.08% or 473 acres are owned by other agencies including Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Power & Light Company, among others.

The listing above does not include open space or farm or wildlife conservancies owned by private and non-profit groups such as the

Skagit Land Trust, Skagitonians for Farmland Preservation, Nature Conservancy, San Juan Land Trust, and others.

Except for city and town parks, these public and private open space lands are located in the rural most areas of the county away from urban growth areas.

Skagit County Parks & Recreation (SCPR) owns and operates the following major open spaces, wildlife habitat, resource parks, and trail facilities (not including athletic and neighborhood parks):

- **Big Rock (Richard M Hoag Memorial Open Space) Park** - 13-acre wildlife and hiking area located on SR-9 east of Mount Vernon with rocky hilltop and valley viewpoints.
- **Cascade River Park** - 40-acre riverfront parcel recently harvested and replanted with timber.
- **Grandy Lake** - 22-acre wildlife, boating, fishing, and camping site located on Baker Lake Road north of Concrete donated by Scott Paper Company for recreational use.
- **Howard Miller Steelhead Park** - 93-acre wildlife, boating, fishing, and camping site located on Rockport Park Road near Rockport with cultural artifacts and bald eagle viewing. Approximately 80 acres is devoted to open space and hiking trails.
- **Montgomery-Duban Headlands Park** - 37-acre wildlife site located on Rosario Road near Anacortes.
- **Northern State Recreation Area** - 726-acre wildlife, picnic, and hiking site located on Hemlick Road east of Sedro-Woolley. Under a recent master planning effort, over 500 acres of the park will be retained in an undeveloped state to support wildlife habitat and nature interpretive trails.
- **Pilchuck Forest** - 81-acre property once owned by a timber company and



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Appendix B: Resources  
Skagit County UGA Open Space Plan

maintained in a natural, open space state located along the Centennial Trail corridor.

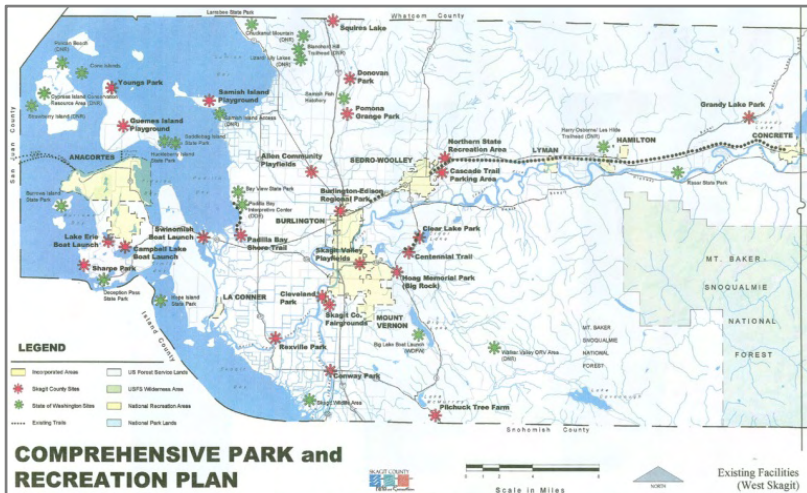
- **Pomona Grange Park & Interpretive Trail** - 15-acre wildlife, picnic, and trail site located on Old Highway 99 north of Burlington bordered by Friday Creek and a state fish hatchery. The park includes old growth forest and nature interpretive trail.
- **Pressentin Park** - 41-acre wildlife site located off SR-20 near Marblemount with woodlands, open terraces, and meandering trails.
- **Sauk Park** - 30-acre wildlife, fishing, and camping site located on SR-20 near Concrete along the Sauk River.
- **Sharpe Park** - 75-acre wildlife and picnic site located on Rosario Road near Anacortes.
- **Young's Park** - 13-acre wildlife, fishing, and picnic site located on Guemes Island Road on Guemes Island. The day-use waterfront park provides a nature area and kayak launch with views of Mount Baker and the San Juan Islands.

**Trails:**

- **Burlington-Sedro-Woolley Trail** - 3.0-mile, 6.8-acre hiking/jogging trail located alongside the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad and SR-20.
- **Cascade Trail** - 23-mile, 280-acre multipurpose trail corridor on former railroad track bed paralleling SR-20 and the Skagit River from Sedro-Woolley to Concrete.
- **Centennial Trail** - 0.5 mile trail corridor on former railroad right-of-way extending north from Arlington and the Snohomish County 26-mile trail south to Snohomish.







- **Padilla Bay Shore Trail** - 2.1-mile, 15-acre multipurpose trail and wildlife site located on top of a dike along Padilla Bay off Bay View-Edison Road near Bay View. The park is co-managed with the Department of Ecology.
- **Squires Lake Park & Trail** - 4.0-mile trail corridor and 57-acre wildlife site on Old Highway 99 near Alger with the lake and wetlands. The site is co-managed with Whatcom County Parks & Recreation Department.

**Shoreline access:**

There are 29 shoreline access points in the county including 15 locations that access saltwater shoreline some of which are only accessible by boat, 7 locations to access lake shorelines, and another 7 that access streams.

**Skagit Parks Foundation**

The Skagit Parks Foundation (SPF) is a non-profit organization established to assist Skagit County Parks & Recreation (SCPR) with the acquisition, development, and management of the Skagit County parks, open space, and trail system, and recreational related programs. The Foundation partners with a variety of organizations including Boy Scouts, Starbucks, and other public and private organizations.

Some of SPF's recent projects include:

- **Mud Lake Project** - a kiosk and interpretive signage improvement along the Centennial Trail,

- **Adopt-a-Trail** - program that recruits community organizations to help maintain county trail corridors,
- **Art in the Parks** - supporting Skagit Artists Together and their efforts to place artworks in county parks,
- **Howard Miller Steelhead Park** - rebuilding the picnic shelter at the park,
- **Northern State Recreation Area (NSRA)** - developing horse, bike, and hike trails in the park boundaries,
- **Skagit-Sauk Reach Trail Project** - developing a trailhead for off-road trail excursions.

