

**SKAGIT COUNTY
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)
AMENDING SKAGIT COUNTY CODE TO CREATE A SALMON HERITAGE
PROGRAM AND IN RESPONSE TO WESTERN WASHINGTON GROWTH
MANAGEMENT HEARINGS BOARD'S ORDER IN CASE NO. 02-2-0012C**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: A non-project legislative action to consider amendments to Skagit County Code Title 14 (Unified Development Code) including Chapter 14.24 Critical Areas Ordinance and Chapter 14.44 Enforcement to better protect salmon habitat and ongoing agriculture. The Code amendments reflect the changes necessary to implement a proposed Salmon Heritage Program (SHP) which will protect riparian habitat with a program to acquire riparian conservation easements (buffers). The SHP will be established by resolution, a separate non-legislative action that will have its own SEPA determination). The amendments reflect that with a buffer acquisition program there is no need to continue monitoring fish habitat trends or to determine whether a particular activity is causing harm or degradation. Chapter 14.44 is being amended to enhance compliance monitoring and enforcement for the critical areas ordinance regulations including the SHP.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: Lands with ongoing agriculture within unincorporated areas of Skagit County, WA that are zoned Agriculture-NRL and Rural Resource - NRL.

PROPONENT/LEAD AGENCY: Skagit County Planning & Development Services.

FINDINGS: The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). The decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request. This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340 (2). The lead agency will not take final action on this proposal for 60 days from the date of public notice below.

A Public Hearing Notice for the proposal was published on March 22, 2007 in the Skagit Valley Herald. On March 22, 2007 the proposal documents will be available on the Skagit County website (www.skagitcounty.net).

COMMENT PERIOD: The comment period on this DNS is from March 23, 2007 to April 9, 2007. Written correspondence, including facsimile transmittal may be submitted to: Skagit County Planning and Development Services, c/o Tom Karsh, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, Washington, 98273 or by FAX (360) 336-9416. Written comments (faxed, mailed, or delivered) will be accepted. Comments on the proposal must be submitted on 8 ½" x 11" paper. Maps must be in black and white and also reduced to 8 ½" x 11" size for reproduction purposes. Submittals not meeting these requirements will, unfortunately, not be considered. Comments must be received at the Planning and Development Services Department by 4:30 p.m. Monday April 9, 2007. E-mails will not be accepted.

CONTACT PERSON: Tom Karsh, Special Projects Administrator - Phone (360) 419-3373 - Email (tomk@co.skagit.wa.us).

SEPA RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Gary R. Christensen, Director/Administrative Official,
Skagit County Planning and Development Services.

ADDRESS: 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon WA 98273.

PHONE: (360) 336-9410

Date: March 20, 2007

Signature _____

Gary Christensen
Director

Cc: Washington State Dept. of Ecology, attached mailing list

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