

**SKAGIT COUNTY
&
SKAGIT
WATERSHED**

County = 1.1 Million acres
Watershed = 2.0 Million acres

Skagit Alternative
Futures Project

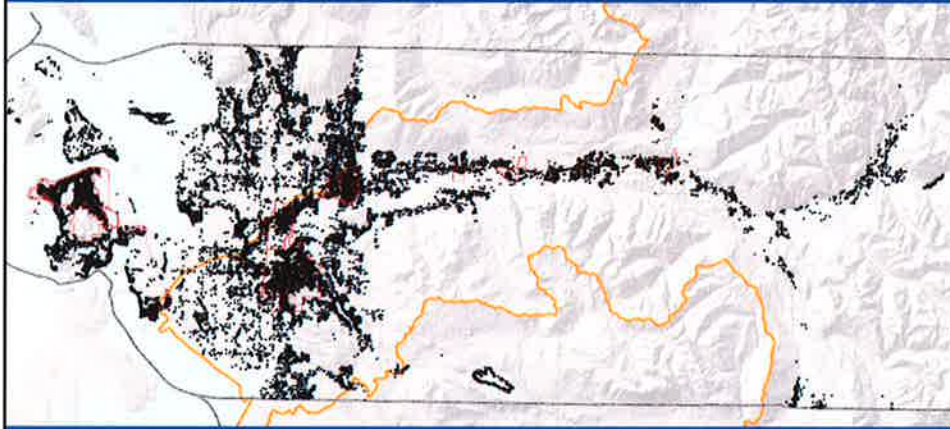
Skagit Alternatives Futures

- is a long-term,
- watershed-wide
- visioning, modeling, and planning process that seeks to maintain:
 - the health of the Skagit ecosystem,
 - its natural resource industries,
 - and its communities and economy
- in the face of population growth, climate change, and other large-scale changes.

What are some of the challenges looking out 50 years?

- One of the fastest growing counties in Washington
- Population expected to nearly double in 50 years
- Local governments face challenges providing services (regional jails, schools, health care facilities, roads, etc.)
- New residents, builders, farmers, foresters, conservationists and others compete for same land
- One quarter of population lives in floodplain and could face serious damage in a major flood
- Flood risk likely to increase due to climate change

Current Population Distribution



Preferred
Future

Agriculture
Forestry
Future

Conservation
Future

Plan
Trend

Development
Future

The preferred future will draw on elements of the four alternatives to maintain:

- Commercially viable and sustainable agricultural and forest products industries
- An ecosystem that supports healthy and resilient communities of people and native species
- Highly livable, economically viable urban and rural communities
- A strong and resilient economy

Expected Outcomes

- Develop a 50-year vision for conservation and development in the Skagit
- Identify strategies to implement the vision including recommendations for:
 - County, city and tribal comprehensive plans and development regulations
 - State land management agencies
 - Conservation groups, natural resource industries, and businesses

Skagit Alternative Futures

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