

The MARP will accelerate self-sustaining plant communities in agriculture buffers along streams and help restore aquatic systems in salmon-bearing waters throughout agricultural lands in the county. Managed buffer systems provide functional riparian habitat at rates significantly faster than those calculated under the Federal Forest Management Plan. The MARP is a crucial link between balancing salmon recovery efforts and sustainable agriculture practices in Skagit County.

Forest Practices Act

The County reviews the environmental impacts from the conversion of forestlands to other uses, including residential, under the Washington State Forest Practices Act (RCW 76.09). To ensure proper protections are in place, the CAO specifically requires that forest conversions comply with the riparian buffers established in the CAO. Buffers range from 50 feet to 200 feet depending on the quality of the waterway and the species known to inhabit the area.

Shoreline Master Program

Skagit County partners with the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) to implement the State Shoreline Management Act. The County reviews activities adjacent to shorelines to reduce development impacts. The Skagit County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) allows for specific uses and setbacks according to the shoreline designation. Within the next two years, our SMP will be revised to comply with changes in DOE's standards and the Endangered Species Act.

Benefits

- Water quality and riparian habitat areas are protected and enhanced.
- Critical areas are protected from development encroachment.
- Mitigation is allowed to help offset project-generated impacts.



Samish River



Samish River at Thomas Road