



# Skagit County Public Works

## Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program

### Scheduled 3-Year Review Workshop

**Thursday, December 6, 2007**  
**Workshop Program**

- 7:00** Introduction  
*Ryan Walters, Prosecutor's Office*
- 7:05** Water Quality Program Review  
*Rick Haley, Public Works*
- 7:20** Salmon Habitat Program Review  
*Jeff McGowan, Public Works*
- 7:35** Skagit Water Quality Analysis  
*Sally Lawrence, Dept of Ecology*
- 7:50** Interactive Workshop &  
Questions for Presenters
- 8:15** Public Testimony
- 9:00** Adjournment

*All times approximate.*

#### **Documents, Transcript, and Video**

All workshop documents are available at the website address below. A transcript of workshop testimony and a streaming video recording will be available following the event.

#### **Written Comments**

Written comments are accepted in person, via mail, or via e-mail through Monday, December 24 to:

Tom Karsh, Special Projects  
Skagit County Public Works  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon WA 98273  
maam@co.skagit.wa.us  
e-mail attachment size limit: 10mb

Skagit County is soliciting public comment on its Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program as part of our scheduled three-year review. This program monitors stream water quality and salmon habitat parameters to evaluate the effects of agricultural operations on critical areas. Interested parties are invited to comment on the program and its methodology, sampling techniques, and analysis.

#### **Protection of Critical Areas**

Skagit County is required by the Washington State Growth Management Act to designate and protect critical areas—wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, frequently-flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. Fish and wildlife habitat areas and wetlands are especially important to healthy salmon populations, including the threatened Chinook species.

#### **The MAAM Program**

Many jurisdictions have chosen to protect critical areas using mandatory buffers — strips of land bordering the critical area where development or farming is not allowed. These buffers can impose a heavy burden on landowners, especially resource-based industries like farming. That's why, in places where ongoing agricultural activity is conducted, Skagit County instead uses an alternative approach. Our "Monitoring and Adaptive Management" (MAAM) program, defined in Resolution R20040211, is intended to monitor when agriculture is causing harm to critical areas and then define steps to manage the land use activity to prevent that harm from occurring. The program consists of two sub-programs:

- Water Quality Monitoring Program
- Salmon Habitat Monitoring Program

Both programs have accumulated years of data and issued annual reports, which you can find at the web address below.

Skagit County's MAAM program was found insufficient by the Washington State Supreme Court in September 2007. But because the legislature has imposed a three-year timeout on changes to Critical Areas Ordinances related to agricultural activities, Skagit County is not contemplating changes to our CAO relating to ongoing agriculture at this time. Instead, we aim to collect feedback about our program in preparation for changes at the end of the timeout in 2010. We appreciate your assistance!

Please visit our website at [www.skagitcounty.net/salmonstrategy](http://www.skagitcounty.net/salmonstrategy) for more information  
Send an e-mail to [join-salmonstrategy@lists.skagitcounty.net](mailto:join-salmonstrategy@lists.skagitcounty.net) to subscribe to e-mail updates