Skagit River General Investigation
Preliminary Alternatives

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Skagit River General Investigation
Problem

- Problem: The Skagit River Basin is subject to rain floods and related snowmelt runoff flooding that typically occur from October – March. This flooding results in damages to infrastructure; residential, commercial and industrial structures; agricultural areas; and is a threat to life safety. Existing flood control systems, including locally owned levees and flood control storage in non-Federal hydropower projects, provides a limited level of flood risk management to developed areas that is not acceptable to the local communities in the Basin.
Opportunity and Objectives

- **Opportunity**: Reduce flood risk and life/safety risk in the Skagit River Basin from overland flow resulting from October – March rain floods and related snowmelt floods.
  - **Objective**: Reduce flood damages in the Skagit River Basin over the 50 year project life.
  - **Objective**: Reduce threat to life safety in the Skagit River Basin over the 50 year project life.
Study Schedule

- Upcoming milestones
  - Public Outreach on Preliminary Alternatives, April-May 2012
  - Public Outreach on Final Alternatives and Tentatively Selected Plan, March 2013

- Future Milestones
  - Public Outreach on Recommended Plan, March 2014
  - Formal Public Comment Period on draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement per NEPA requirements, January 2015
Measures and Alternatives

- **Measures** are strategies that decrease flood risk for a specific location. Alone, they cannot address basin-wide flooding problems.
  - Levees/floodwalls
  - Operational modifications Upper and Lower Baker Dams
  - Bypasses
  - Non-structural
  - Bridge modification

- **Alternatives** are groupings of measures that can address basin-wide flooding problems.
Alternatives Formulation Process

- Preliminary alternatives are conceptual designs.
- The Alternatives Formulation Process is a dynamic process.
  - Over the next year, the study team will refine the alternatives based on considerations of:
    - Hydraulic analysis
    - Economic analysis
    - Environmental analysis
    - Federal, state, and local laws
    - Public input
    - Local, state, and federal agency input
- The preliminary alternatives presented today are likely to change as they are refined through the alternative formulation process.
Alternatives Formulation Process: Evaluation Criteria

- Completeness
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Acceptability
Preliminary Alternative 1: No Action

- Per USACE planning guidance, the No Action Alternative was evaluated.
- The No Action Alternative will not achieve the study objectives and will not be brought forward for further consideration as the recommended plan.
Alternative 2: Non-Structural and Dam Modifications
Preliminary Alternative 3: Joe Leary Slough Bypass or Floodway
Preliminary Alternative 4: Swinomish Bypass or Floodway
Preliminary Alternative 5: Urban Area Protection
Preliminary Alternative 6: System-wide Levee Setbacks
Preliminary Alternative 6: System-wide Levee Setbacks
Comments?

- Please fill out a comment card.
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