

From: [Lauren Wright](#)
To: [NWS-Skagit-River-GI](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Skagit River flood prevention project
Date: Friday, June 20, 2014 10:53:10 AM

Hello, my name is Fred Wright, and I have lived in this valley for 62 years. I have seen floods and high water come and go, and have spent a lot of time on the river fishing. I have watched with amazement how our county have wasted thousands if not millions of dollars studying this issue, while all the time they could have spent this money taking steps to alleviate this problem. When I was young, I spent a lot of time coming in and out the mouth of the river and was aware of the depth at the mouth. Over the years, due to high tides, the mouth has gradually silted up and now is almost impassible in a boat that draws more than 3 feet. One must have an exceptional high tide to even do that. During flood periods, which is in Nov. and Dec. mostly, we also have very high tides, which holds the outflow up and increases flooding. Due to reduced flow, silt drops out and adds to the reduced depth at the mouth. What this river needs is to dredge the mouth area to help relieve this bottleneck effect. In the long run, occasional dredging will not be as expensive as the extensive dike work you propose, which will put certain rural areas in more danger, but supposedly save the towns along the river. Quite frankly, I believe the general populace is more important than our small towns. By dredging the mouth, a larger area of floodplain will be less likely to flood. I've heard all the excuses for not dredging, and none of them are valid. (in my opinion) One would think that the Federal government would be wise enough to understand this, but we will see. There are a lot of stupid people in this world. Thanks
Fred Wright