(From Project Study Plan)

**PED Project Purpose.** The flood damage reduction project purpose is to assist in developing a Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan for the Skagit River by developing alternatives to reduce flood hazards in the project area and to incorporate appropriate fish and wildlife habitat improvements.

**Project area** includes the Skagit River and the lower Skagit River floodplain below the highway 9 bridge in Sedro-Woolley, cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon and their associated urban growth boundaries, and the rural areas in the lower Skagit River delta.

**Flood hazards** are defined as significant damage to existing structures, high risk to life, and extended closures of transportation corridors.

**Major Project Criteria.** Major project criteria, which must be met for a project to be recommended, include the following:

- Reduce flood hazards and flood damage costs in the project area to the maximum extent practicable.
- Protect existing Public infrastructure to the maximum extent practicable.
- Be cost-effective for both construction and maintenance.
- Provide to the maximum extent practicable, protection for towns and cities of the Skagit River floodplain below Highway 9 in Sedro-Woolley.
- Improve the integrity of rural levees so as to reduce the threat of catastrophic failure and reduce flood damages to the maximum extent practicable.
- Decrease the transportation closures during flooding on critical transportation corridors including, but not limited to, Interstate 5, Highway 20, SR 11, and Highway 9 to the maximum extent practicable.
- Avoid adverse impacts to the aquatic and terrestrial environment to the extent practicable. Minimize and compensate for unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic and terrestrial environment.
- Define opportunities to partner with other watershed stakeholders to improve fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and transportation resulting from the project.
- Comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations, including environmental regulations.
- Do not induce development in rural areas to the maximum extent practicable.