

**“Straw-man”  
Examples of short-term and long-term goals, and objectives  
for the Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan**

**Background**

A Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan must contain certain minimum elements to comply with State law (RCW 86.26 and WAC 175-145). One of these elements, “Short-term and long-term goals and objectives for the planning area” is required under WAC 175-145-040(1)(f).

The following “straw-man” (examples of short term and long-term goals and objectives statements) were selected by staff for consideration by the Flood Control Zone District. These goal/objective statement examples are not intended to be exhaustive and were, in general, gleaned from existing comprehensive flood control management plans, the Skagit GI, interviews with participants, and statements from the Technical Committee and Advisory Committee meetings.

Ecology’s “Comprehensive Planning for Flood Hazard Management Guidebook” notes that “goals” are generally the broadest expression of a jurisdiction’s desires. “Objectives” are more specific targets or benchmarks to be achieved in the ongoing implementation of the stated goals. In addition to the use of short-term and long-term goal statements some plans blend or further split goals/objectives into associated terms, such as: mission statements, project purpose statements, guiding principles, performance standards, prioritization criteria, strategies, and evaluation criteria, etc. For purpose of this “straw-man” paper no distinction is made between “short-term” and “long term” objectives, and other similar expressions.

**Goals and Objectives of Flood Hazard Management for the Skagit River**

| <b>Goals</b>                 | <b>Objectives</b>   | <b>Measurement Criteria</b>  |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Protect life and property | 1.1 Maintain existing flood control infrastructure and prevent failure during high water periods. | 1.1.1 Document maintenance activities.<br>1.1.2 Document existing structural capabilities<br>1.1.3 Document failures.<br>1.1.4 Encourage responsible agencies to plan for 500-year flood protection. |

| Goals   | Objectives  | Measurement Criteria  |
|---|---|---|
|   | 1.2 Attend to all known imminent flood hazards. Provide immediate spot improvements to areas of serious flood threats which can not wait for comprehensive changes to flood management plans. | 1.2.1 List known imminent flood risks.<br>1.2.2 Prioritize measures to reduce risks.<br>1.2.3 Document emergency repairs.   |
|   | 1.3 Continually improve flood warning, emergency response, and evacuation capabilities.   | 1.3.1 Identify agencies with responsibilities for flood emergency actions.<br>1.3.2 Identify existing plans containing flood emergency response strategies, including responding to floods that exceed a 100-year event.<br>1.3.3 Coordinate emergency flood protection amongst existing plans and agencies.  |
|   | 1.4 Support local efforts to improve flood protection consistent with the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan.   | 1.4.1 Provide opportunity for local entities and jurisdictions to share information on their flood risk reduction activities.<br>1.4.2 Assist local entities and jurisdictions to find funding for flood risk reduction activities.<br>1.4.3 Assist local entities and jurisdictions adversely impacted by flood risk reduction activities of others. |
| 2. Establish and adopt a systematic, coordinated, comprehensive approach to flood hazard management for the Skagit River. | 2.1 Establish and maintain a planning process that encourages and supports coordinated, county-wide flood hazard management.  | 2.1.1 Continue use of the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) for county-wide flood management coordination.<br>2.1.2 FCZD Advisory Committee will meet monthly (or as needed) to conduct FCZD business.   |

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|       |  | 2.1.3 FCZD Advisory Committee report annually in a public session to the Board of Supervisors on accomplishments and proposed work plan for the upcoming year.  |
|       | 2.2 Update and secure State and county-wide approval of the Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan at least every five (5) years.           | 2.2.1 Complete next CFHMP update and approvals by 2010.<br>2.2.2 CFHMP should be consistent with Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (Skagit GI) as much as possible.                         |
|       | 2.3 Support the completion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (Skagit GI). | 2.3.1 Provide review and comment on the Skagit GI from the perspective of the FCZD.<br>2.3.2 Provide a forum for public review and comment of the Skagit GI.<br>2.3.3 Provide local funding match as necessary to complete the Skagit GI. |
|       | 2.4 Ensure that flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are updated and as accurate as possible.                | 2.4.1 Provide support for efforts to reach county-wide agreement on hydrology for a 100-year flood event.   |
|       | 2.5 Support continued county-wide participation in the federal Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program.                        | 2.5.1 Encourage owners of all properties in the floodplain to obtain flood insurance, including properties behind levees providing 100-year flood protection.   |

| Goals | Objectives  | Measurement Criteria   |
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|       |   | 2.5.2 Work with the federal CRS program to lower flood insurance rates and premiums.   |
|       | 2.6 Improve public understanding of flood hazard management through multi-media public outreach education efforts using a public involvement plan as a tool for guiding efforts.                    | 2.6.1 Complete and approve a public involvement plan that lines out specific tasks and actions related to public outreach.<br><br>2.6.2 Using the public involvement plan, implement the actions specified in a timely manner.<br><br>2.6.3 Update and change the public involvement plan as necessary to adjust actions to meet the needs of the CFHMP and implementation of the CFHMP. |
|       | 2.7 Establish a stable funding mechanism to support county-wide flood hazard management. Secure community-wide support for local, state, and federal funding to implement flood reduction measures. | 2.7.1 Develop recommendation for long-term funding for county-wide flood hazard management.<br><br>2.7.2 Develop budget for continued county-wide flood hazard management planning efforts and implementation of flood reduction measures.<br><br>2.7.3 Coordinate county-wide efforts to obtain Local, State and Federal funding for flood protection measures.                         |
|       | 2.8 Integrate flood hazard management with other land use plans and regulations to minimize flood risk and to reduce need for in-stream flood control works.  | 2.8.1 Identify existing plans and regulations that restrict development along shorelines and within the floodplain.  |

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|       |   | 2.8.2 Integrate flood hazard management strategies into the plans and regulations identified in 2.8.1.  |
|       | 2.9 Identify at-risk properties, with special attention to those experiencing repetitive losses, and look for ways to acquire, and remove or relocate them out of harms way.  | 2.9.1 Support efforts by local groups to buyout at-risk properties, especially those in the floodway such as Hamilton.<br><br>2.9.2 Support grants to fund buy-out programs as matching funds are available.<br><br>2.9.3 Support Farmland Legacy Program that acquires development rights in floodplain/floodway.  |
|       | 2.10 Establish criteria for selection and prioritization of flood hazard management measures and projects. Examples of criteria include: severity of problem; effectiveness; benefit; cost; public acceptance; environmental impact; life safety impacts; protection of critical infrastructure; and satisfy multiple objectives, . | 2.10.1 Develop rating protocol that can be used to evaluate and prioritize flood reduction measures throughout the county.<br><br>2.10.2 Aim to be consistent with USACE criteria for the Skagit GI.<br><br>2.10.3 Benefit/cost ratio, when used as a tool to evaluate or compare flood protection measures, should reflect the financial impact of the measure on the entire river system. |
|       | 2.11 When financially feasible, flood measures and projects should be designed to offer protection from a 500-year event.   | 2.11.1 Prioritize measures offering 500-year protection.  |

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|  |   | <p>2.11.2 Look for ways to increase funding to implement 500-year protection measures.</p>  |
|  | 2.12 Provide coordination component with local flood efforts and projects and where possible support such efforts | 2.12.1 Incorporate local flood efforts into CFHMP.  |
|  | 2.13 Focus CFHMP on risk reduction efforts rather than on flood protection.                                       | 2.13.1 List specific risk reduction efforts in CFHMP and prioritize them higher than flood protection.  |
| 3. Reduce historic and prevent future adverse environmental or natural resource impacts of flood hazard solutions. | 3.1 Avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of flood hazard protection.                                       | <p>3.1.1 Non-structural (out-of-stream) measures for flood hazard reduction are to be considered as viable options in reducing flood risk.</p> <p>3.1.2 Structural (in-stream) flood control measures should preserve or enhance existing flow characteristics and water quality for fisheries, water supply, recreation, and other river uses.</p> <p>3.1.3 Reduce the need for emergency measures that degrade habitat and prepare a mitigation strategy for those occasions when emergency measures are unavoidable.</p> |
|  | 3.2 Look for opportunities to restore lost habitat and improve diversity of habitat for all wildlife species.     | 3.2.1 Encourage structural (in-stream) flood reduction measures to include a restoration component consistent with ESA recovery plans.  |