

## Executive Summary

A comprehensive flood hazard management plan is required by the State Participation in Flood Control Maintenance Act (RCW 86.26) for jurisdictions desiring State assistance for flood control management. The plan helps to protect and guide the use and allocation of state and local funds for flood protective works. The purpose of the plan is to establish the need for flood control work, define alternatives, and develop actions to solve flood control problems that are consistent with existing regulations and flood control goals. (Skagit County, 1989)

Skagit County has faced flooding problems with the Skagit and Samish Rivers throughout its history. In order to control damage, over 80 miles of dikes and levees, drainage pumps, tide gates, holding ponds, and bank stabilization have been constructed and maintained by many diking and drainage districts. These facilities are subject to wear, however, and require continual maintenance. Several of these facilities are in need of major maintenance now. After a flood event, the relative severity of flood control maintenance problems change, and new problem areas occur. New problem areas can develop in response to changes in the river's course or upper basin timber activities. (Skagit County, 1989)

There are many structural and non-structural options to control flooding. Levees, coastal control, flood storage, channel maintenance or modification, and control of contributing areas are general structural options, and floodplain regulations, risk management, public education, and emergency response measures are some non-structural methods of controlling flood damage. Each of the flood control options has its specific in-stream impacts and applicability to geographic areas and specific problems. The options used must also be consistent with existing regulations. (Skagit County, 1989)

The<sup>[mm1]</sup> development of flood control management actions must take into consideration the County flood control goals in alternative analysis and prioritization. These goals include reducing threat and damage, protection of economic base, provision of effective emergency response, maintain and improve existing facilities, maintain local control of flood control works, and provide Countywide protection. (Skagit County, 1989)

Due to the changing nature of flooding problems, a framework for prioritizing flood control work was developed in the management plan. Assessment of all flood control facilities and floodplain areas after a flood event is important to update the project list. After alternatives have been selected for the project areas, each is prioritized according to problem severity and ability to

accomplish the County's flood control goals. The actual prioritized list also reflects the severity of the problems. (Skagit County, 1989)

With approval of this plan, these projects will be planned in further detail, and will be submitted to the appropriate County and state agencies for funding and approval. Implementation of the projects is subject to local agency cooperation and coordination as Skagit County does not have full authority over all of the project areas. (Skagit County, 1989)

This project prioritization list is for the current problem areas identified within the plan. The project and prioritization list will be updated upon assessment after a flood event. Unexpected emergency situations would be solved immediately, and are subject to a separate planning and funding process. (Skagit County, 1989)

Full implementation of this plan will take time. This plan is intended to be a living document. Implementation of all actions will involve the full participation of those who helped develop the plan and others. By working together, Skagit River flood hazards and public costs can be reduced while maintaining this river's remarkable natural resource values. (Snohomish County, 2003)

References:

Skagit County, State of Washington (1989). Skagit County Comprehensive Flood Control Management Plan. Skagit County, WA. Consulting Engineers: Brown and Caldwell.

Snohomish County, State of Washington (2003). Draft Public Review Stillaguamish River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan. Snohomish County, WA.