Skagit River, Skagit County, Washington Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement

(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.