Mission, 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).

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 and objectives into associated terms, such as: mission statements, project purpose statements, guiding principles, performance standards, prioritization criteria, strategies, and evaluation criteria, etc. For the purposes of this plan, "goals" are defined as the benefits that the plan is trying to achieve. The success of the plan, once implemented, should be measured by the degree to which its goals have been met (i.e., by the actual benefit that occurs on the ground). "Objectives" are defined as short-term aims which, when combined, form a strategy or course of action to meet a goal.

Mission Statement

The FCZD Advisory Committee agreed to the following mission statement for flood hazard risk reduction management:

The mission of the Skagit River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan is to develop a comprehensive approach to Skagit River flood hazard reduction and management that decreases the flood hazard risk to people, property, infrastructure, fish and wildlife resources, and economic vitality, advances river restoration and other community interests, and reduces long-term costs associated with flood management and infrastructure maintenance.

Goals and Objectives of Flood Hazard Management for the Skagit River

Goals	Objectives	
1. Establish and adopt a systematic, coordinated, comprehensive approach to flood hazard risk reduction management for the Skagit River.	1.1	Establish and maintain a planning process that encourages and supports coordinated, county-wide flood hazard risk reduction management that includes both structural and non-structural measures.
	1.2	Continually improve flood warning, emergency response, and evacuation capabilities
	1.3	Support the completion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Skagit River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study with input from the Skagit FCZD Advisory Committee (Skagit GI).
	1.4	Support County participation in the FEMA flood insurance program and encourage communities and individuals to remain in or join the program. *(Revisit this when more info available about NOAA Fisheries BiOp)*
	1.5	Support continued county-wide participation in the federal Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program if it is determined to be effective in reducing flood damages/risks and is not actually promoting development outside the urban growth areas of Skagit County. *(Revisit this when more information available on CRS and on the NOAA Fisheries BiOp and determine how those may affect this objective)*
	1.6	Support local efforts to improve flood risk reduction efforts consistent with the Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan.
	1.7	Improve public understanding of, and support for, flood hazard management through multi-media public outreach and education efforts using the Public Involvement Plan as a tool for guiding efforts.
	1.8	Integrate flood hazard risk reduction management with other land use plans and regulations to minimize flood risk and to reduce need for in-stream flood control works.
	1.9	Identify at-risk properties, with special attention to those experiencing repetitive losses, and look for ways to acquire, and assist with removal or relocation.
	1.10	Develop a holistic set of criteria that prioritize strategies for flood risk reduction that balance engineering, economic, environmental, and social factors.
	1.11	Ensure flood risk reduction projects do not have negative upstream or downstream impacts without compensation
	1.12	Strive to increase the level of communication among governmental and nongovernmental entities and individuals regarding flood risk management.
	1.13	Ensure projected changes in sea level rise, hydrology, and sediment delivery are incorporated into selection and design of flood hazard reduction projects.
	1.14	Evaluate the impacts of the flood risk reduction projects on growth and expansion of development into flood risk areas.

Goals	Objectives	
2. Ensure flood damage reduction efforts result in improvements to the natural assets of Skagit Valley by incorporating ecosystem protection, restoration and natural resource considerations into flood hazard management solutions.	2.1	Evaluate opportunities to reduce flood hazards via salmon recovery or other environmental restoration projects.
	2.2	Look for opportunities to restore lost habitat and improve diversity of habitat for all wildlife species.
	2.3	Impacts to fish and wildlife habitat associated with flood reduction efforts will be addressed.
	2.4	Cumulative effects analysis associated with multiple flood damage reduction efforts should be undertaken to ensure protection of ecosystem function
	2.5	In comparing similar projects, prioritize flood reduction measures that maximize ecosystem restoration opportunities
	2.6	Increase the natural flood water and sediment storage capacity of the floodplain through the protection and restoration of natural river, bank, tidal marsh, off channel, and wetland habitats
	2.7	Protect and restore natural riverine, riparian and estuarine processes.
	2.8	Incorporate wetland restoration when possible.
	2.9	Minimize water quality contamination during flood events.
	2.10	Develop flood risk management actions that will not encourage development in the floodplain outside existing unincorporated UGAs.
	2.11	No negative impacts or net loss of farmland except as pertains to implementation of flood hazard reduction measures and to benefit or restore ecosystem functions.
3. Develop recommendations that protect/enhance the local quality of life and garner broad public support.	3.1	Work toward a balance in projects that provides multiple benefits (i.e. parks, open space, trails, economic vitality) that will be useful in creating broad public support.
	3.2	Develop broad public awareness and support for projects that allow for smoother approval of such projects.
	3.3	Ensure that structures built in the floodplain are constructed in a way that risk is minimized and does not impact surrounding landowners or natural resources either upstream or downstream.
	3.4	Encourage more consistent implementation and enforcement of local flood damage regulations
4. Develop a funding plan that is fiscally responsible and that draws from various funding sources for flood hazard risk reduction and floodplain management.	4.1	Using information from the past, support good fiscal decisions for future flood risk management efforts and minimize the future cost to the taxpayer.
	4.2	A stable, adequate, and publicly acceptable long-term source of financing should be established and maintained for flood risk reduction.
	4.3	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 risk reduction measures.