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**URGENT SURVEY INSIDE—
 Please reply by Oct. 15, 2010.
 Thanks!**

FRIENDS OF SKAGIT COUNTY WORKS FOR YOU IN SKAGIT COUNTY! PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

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- I'm a REGULAR *Friend!* (\$35) I'm a FAMILY *Friend!* (\$50) I'm a NEIGHBORLY *Friend!* (\$100)
- I'm a SPECIAL *Friend!* (\$250) I'm a UNIQUE *Friend!* (\$500) I'm a _____ *Friend!* (\$_____)
- I'm making an additional \$_____ contribution to the LEGAL FUND.
- I'm making an additional \$_____ contribution in honor/memory of: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I CAN HELP WITH: - research - monitoring county meetings - newsletters - mailings
 - computers - managing the website - other (_____)

DONATIONS TO FRIENDS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW. (Please consult your tax accountant.)

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO **PO BOX 2632, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273** OR CHARGE IT TO YOUR CREDIT CARD ON THE NETWORK FOR GOOD or at **www.friendsofskogitcounty.org** — click on "get involved." 021010

Notes from Friends

Friends of Skagit County
www.friendsofskogitcounty.org

Fall, 2010
360-419-0988

Managing Growth Series Continued - 2nd article in the series
By June Kite

The first article on history and the Comprehensive Plan introduced “Visioning and Alternative Futures” and Mandatory Elements. These documents then are to be consistent with the 13 mandated State Growth Management Goals and Planning Policies. So what are the Mandatory Elements and Planning Policies?

Working with the cities in Skagit County the County Wide Planning Policies (CWPP) are statements as to what course of action is to be taken to support the GMA Goals, i.e., compact urban growth, reduction of sprawling development in rural areas, the protection of resource lands with a focus on land use. There are four general categories to be considered. – Urban, Rural, Resource Lands (industrial Agriculture and Forests) and Open Space. More of the goals will be included in a follow-up article in a future newsletter.

The Unified Development Codes (UDC) are the requirements necessary to establish planning policies, zoning and density of development that is to be permitted for each land use designation as found in land use criteria and development rights policies. Public process and the permitting of development applications are complex processes. Regulations for development must be coordinated among various departments including Skagit County Public Works, Health Department, Planning and Permitting, as well as Skagit’s city and county jurisdictions that are concerned about managing growth.

Any citizen can participate in the public process individually or as a group, and if there is an issue that appears to not be in compliance with the mandated goals and policies the issue can be introduced at a Planning Commission Public Hearing. A Planning Commission is made up of volunteer citizens who make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners or to the respective city councils for their approval and adoption into law.

After adoption, if there remains an issue that may not be in compliance with the GMA goals or Policies, a citizen may file an appeal to the State Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB), a semi-judicial body. The decision of the GMHB then approves or directs the local governing body to draft corrections for public review and process. As you can see this is a time consuming process but one that assures there is open government by the people and for the people.

Once the language of the County (or city) Comprehensive Plan, Policies and Development codes is adopted, applications for individual projects are submitted. In Washington State, as in most places in the U.S., a project can legally be built wherever the zoning ordinance of a community allows the type of development.

Next issue – Public Process for Projects

Friends of Skagit County

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Mount Vernon, WA 98273-2632

“People dedicated to preserving Skagit County’s rural character by protecting the natural environment; supporting sustainable resource-based economies; and promoting livable urban communities for present and future generations.”

Friends of Skagit County is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. Donations are fully deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your accountant.

NORTH SOUND ALLIANCE SURVEY

Friends has joined the North Sound Alliance (NSA) through the generosity of an anonymous donor. The NSA is a broad-based, non-partisan alliance of organizations which unite to act for the common good on issues which one organization alone would be unable to successfully take on. The alliance includes education associations, local non-profits like FOSC, churches and labor organizations who will work together on common issues.

Friends joined the NSA to have a “seat at the table” when the NSA decides on issues to pursue. To help Friends prioritize what land use issues you believe are important, we ask that you take a minute to fill out this survey and return it to Friends at the address below. Your information will be kept confidential and anonymous unless you provide contact information. We will use the responses to rank the overall issues of importance for Friends.

Please rank the following issues, with number 1 being most important and give reasons if you wish to do so. The issues are listed in alphabetical order.

ISSUE	RANK NUMBER	REASON/COMMENTS (optional)
Agriculture/ Farmland Protection	_____	_____
Flood Protection	_____	_____
Forest Land Protection	_____	_____
Growth Management Commitment	_____	_____
Livable Communities	_____	_____
Rural Character Protection	_____	_____
State versus Local Control	_____	_____
Sustainable Economic Development	_____	_____
Water Issues (rural wells, groundwater)	_____	_____
Other issues	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If you want more information on NSA future events please give us your contact information.

CONTACT INFO: (optional) Name _____
Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Please use the back of this page for additional comments. For more information on NSA contact Howard Pellett 360-293-8128 or cpellett@cablerocket.com. Please return this survey to FOSC, PO Box 2632, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-2632. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!