

## SLS Fish, Flood, and Farm Policy Framework

Background: The SLS is engaged in the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan update process to advocate for updates that support fish, flood, and farm interests.

Purpose and position: Advocate for changes to land use policies that reduce flood risk, accommodate changing conditions, and enhance and protect habitat and agricultural resource lands for fish and farms.

Aspects of the County Wide Planning Policies (CPPs) that support the stated purpose:

1. Development Patterns Element
  - a. TDR program (DP.e.8)
  - b. Opportunities for permanent preservation of natural and cultural features (DP – 2.e.9)
2. Natural Environment Element
  - a. Commitment to protect and enhance natural ecosystems (Env -1)
  - b. Protection of significant open space areas, natural agricultural resources, and critical areas (Env - 4)
3. Proposed Natural Environment and Climate Change Element
  - a. The move to include climate change as part of the natural environment chapter.
  - b. Language changes emphasizing collaborative work and interjurisdictional planning.
  - c. New policies tying element into the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan, stormwater management to development, protecting and improving air and water quality.

Amendments that SLS might request:

4. Development Patterns Element
  - a. Incorporate the protection and enhancement of fish habitat and farmland throughout the CPPs generally.
  - b. Include data on the impacts of growth on critical areas both inside and outside the UGA (DP – 1.C).
5. Natural Environment Element
  - a. Incorporate the protection and enhancement of fish habitat and farmland throughout the CPPs generally.

New policy statements the SLS might propose to the county:

1. **Reducing development pressure:** Limit development in current and projected flood prone areas to reduce risk and provide opportunities for farmland protection and fish habitat restoration. Retain resource lands for agricultural, forest, habitat, and open space uses. Lastly, prioritize growth within cities and UGAs to reduce development pressure and flood risk in rural areas.
2. **Climate and social equity:** Incorporate analysis of environmental conditions due to climate change in relation to where communities of color live, work, and have access to outdoor amenities. Establish and implement measures that ensure equitable access to these necessities and develop metrics that maintain equitable access for the long-term.
3. **Addressing the protection of cultural values:** Identify areas, ecosystems, and environmental elements of cultural value with a location, to whom the site is significant, and define how each identified site or environmental aspect will be protected from development, climate change, or other alteration, with counsel from tribal governments and involvement of accountable parties.