

Skagit County land and water management opinion survey

Your Opinion Counts!

The Department of Ecology is conducting this survey to better understand Skagit County residents' opinions and attitudes about land and water topics. Your answers will help guide future outreach activities to better serve you.

This survey is web based and cannot be traced to you. Your answers are anonymous and will be grouped with others to find trends and patterns.

The bar at the top of each page tells you how much of the survey you have completed.

It will take you approximately 8-10 minutes to complete all of the questions. Thank you for your time!

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Michelle Quast at 425-200-8252 or miqu461@ecy.wa.gov.

***1. Do you live in Skagit County, or own/lease land in Skagit County?
(please select yes or no)**

- Yes, I live in or own/lease land in Skagit County
- No, I do not live in or own/lease land in Skagit County

2. What is your zip code? (please select one of these options)

- 98221 (Anacortes)
- 98232 (Bow)
- 98233 (Burlington)
- 98235 (Clear Lake)
- 98237 (Concrete)
- 98238 (Conway)
- 98255 (Hamilton)
- 98257 (La Conner)
- 98263 (Lyman)
- 98267 (Marblemount)
- 98273 (Mount Vernon)

- 98274 (Mount Vernon)
- 98283 (Rockport)
- 98284 (Sedro Woolley)

3. If you own or lease more than one piece of land in Skagit County, **please focus your answers to the following questions on a single property**, preferably one that has a waterbody on it, or your largest piece of land.

Which of the following best describes your living situation? (please select one of these options)

- I own land in Skagit County, and I live on that land
- I own land in Skagit County, but I do not live on that land
- I lease land in Skagit County, and I live on that land
- I lease land in Skagit County, but I do not live on that land
- I rent a house or apartment in Skagit County
- Other (please specify)

4. **Which of the following best describes the presence of water on the Skagit County land that you own or lease? (please select all that apply)**

- A creek, river or ditch that always has water in it, runs through or borders my land
- A small lake or pond is on or borders my land
- A wetland is on or borders my land
- A large lake is on or borders my land
- A ditch or stream that does not always have water in it, runs through or borders my land
- There are no waterbodies of any kind on my land

5. **Approximately how many acres is your land? (please select one of these options)**

- Less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre
- 1 acre
- 2 acres
- 3-5 acres

- 6-20 acres
 - 21-40 acres
 - More than 40 acres
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6. Some of the following questions will ask you about warm water in Skagit County streams. **When we use the term “warm water”, we are talking about water that is warmer than it has been historically, to the point that the increase in temperature is affecting the wildlife that live in it.** These changes in temperature are not always noticed by people when they touch the water, which may still feel cold for our bodies. “Warm water” does not imply that the stream water is warm to the touch, or comfortable for swimming in. Please keep this in mind for the remainder of the survey.

Prior to taking this survey, did you know that some streams in Skagit County are becoming warmer than they have been in the past? (please select yes or no)

- Yes
 - No
-

7. We will be asking about your tree planting activities in some of the following questions. **When we use the term “shade-providing trees”, we are talking about any large trees that will create a lot of shade once they are fully grown.** Typically, these trees will grow to **50ft or taller**. “Shade providing-trees” do not include small, ornamental trees like Japanese maples or fruit trees. Please keep this in mind for the remainder of the survey.

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

Strongly Agree	Moderately Agree	Neutral	Moderately Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The quality of life in my community depends on cold water in local rivers and streams				
The economy of my community depends upon cold water				
It is my personal responsibility to help protect water quality (including streams, creeks, and lakes)				
My personal actions have an impact on water quality				
I am willing to take action on my land to improve water quality				
Planting shade-providing trees is an important step to improve water quality				

8. Which of the following options best describes how you use your Skagit County land? (please select one of these options)

- I use my land for living, or recreation or backyard gardening
 - I have a small **not for profit** agricultural operation on my land
 - I have a small **for profit** agricultural operation on my land
 - I have a large **for profit** agricultural operation on my land
 - My land has been farmed in the past, but it is not being farmed now
 - I rent a house or apartment so this does not apply to me
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9. This question is about some actions you may have taken as a landowner or lessee that have the potential to reduce water temperatures. Which of the following have you done since you've owned or leased your land? (please select all that apply)

- Planted shade-providing trees
- Planted smaller trees or shrubs
- Planted shade-providing trees or shrubs by the water that runs through or borders my land
- Installed a rain garden
- Installed a rainwater catchment system (ex: rain barrels, cistern)
- Refrained from watering grass during the dry summer months
- None of these yet, but I'm interested in learning more about them
- None of these, and I'm not interested at this time
- Other (please specify)

10. This question is about some actions you may have taken as a landowner or lessee with a small not for profit agricultural operation on your land, that have the potential to reduce water temperatures. Which of the following have you done since you've owned or leased your land? (please select all that apply)

- Installed recommended Best Management Practices (BMP's)
- Put up a fence to keep livestock out of water on my land
- Planted a buffer of shade-providing trees or shrubs by the water that runs through or borders my land
- Planted a small number of shade-providing trees or shrubs by the water that runs through or borders my land

- Planted trees for a windbreak
- Planted a hedgerow by the water that runs through or borders my land
- Upgraded my irrigation system to provide better efficiency
- Installed a rain garden
- Installed a rainwater catchment system (ex: rain barrels, cistern)
- Refrained from watering grass during the dry summer months
- Worked with the Conservation District to assess my property
- None of these yet, but I'm interested in learning more about them
- None of these, and I'm not interested at this time
- Other (please specify)

11. This question is about some actions you may have taken as a landowner or lessee running a for profit agricultural operation from your land, or having land that was previously farmed. These actions have the potential to reduce water temperatures. Which of the following have you done since you've owned or leased your land? (please select all that apply)

- Installed recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Planted trees for a windbreak
- Planted a buffer of shade-providing trees or shrubs by the water that runs through or borders my land
- Planted a hedgerow by the water that runs through or borders my land
- Upgraded my irrigation system to provide better efficiency
- Put up a fence to keep livestock out of water on my land
- Worked with the Skagit Conservation District to assess my property
- Planted a buffer with financial assistance from an outside agency
- Participated in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- None of these yet, but I am interested in learning more about them
- None of these yet, and I am not interested at this time
- Other (please specify)

12. Which of the following factors have or would motivate you to plant shade-providing trees on your land? (please select all that apply)

- Encouraged by my family, friends, or community

- Making my land more beautiful or comfortable
- Providing trees for wildlife on my land (ex: birds, pollinators, fish)
- Receiving help with paying for the trees
- Receiving help with planting the trees
- Other (fill in your own motivation)

13. If you wanted to plant trees today, to what extent would the following factors prevent you from planting shade-providing trees:

Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	Don't Know
I don't know how to plant trees, choose species of trees for my land, care for trees, etc.				
I cannot afford to purchase trees, pay someone to plant them, pay someone to care for them, etc.				
I don't have time to plant trees				
Planting trees would cause me to lose cropland or pasture				
I am uncomfortable with losing control of my land through an easement or program				
There are easements on my land that limit what can be planted (ex: drainage or diking district, utilities, etc.)				

14. What other factors that are not listed in the previous question would prevent you from planting shade-providing trees on your land? (please fill in the blank with a short description)

15. Using the scale below, rate how strongly the following statements influence you to take action to protect water quality:

Strong impact	Moderate impact	Slight impact	Minimal impact	No impact
The Skagit supports all of our diverse needs, and now it needs our help				
Skagitonians can make a big impact when we work to find common ground				
Some Skagit streams are a sizzling 10 degrees above the temperature that kills adult salmon				
The Skagit can heal if we all pitch in to help				
Skagit waters are heating up, but together we can keep them cool				
The Skagit offers us over 4,500 beautiful miles of streams to enjoy and protect				

16. The Department of Ecology is going to use some memorable phrases to encourage people to take action. In your opinion, which of the following phrase(s) works best to meet this goal? (select all that apply)

- Healthy Skagit, healthy family
- Keep our Skagit wild and cool
- Support the Skagit as we grow
- Plant for shade in the next decade
- Reduce temps a degree, plant a tree
- Plant a tree for the Salish Sea
- Working our land, protecting our Skagit
- Don't let salmon suffer, plant a buffer
- I don't like any of these
- Other (please specify)

7. The Department of Ecology is planning to develop a series of videos, a website and other educational materials to raise awareness about water temperature problems in the Skagit and actions that people can take to solve the issue. Please indicate your level of interest in the following:

Very interested Interested Somewhat interested Not interested

A series of 4 short videos that explain the Skagit water temperature problem and provide examples of local solutions.

An easy to navigate interactive website that tells the story behind the water temperature problems in the Skagit.

An organized list of available resources for landowners who are interested in planting trees on their land.

A series of short videos that explain the available resources for landowners who are interested in planting trees on their land.

A free or low-cost workshop that teaches participants how to select, purchase, and plant trees in their own backyard.

18. Where do you get information or advice about Skagit County land and water management topics? (please select all that apply)


- Local radio stations
- Local TV channels
- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Local nurseries

- Skagit County
- WSU Skagit County Extension
- Master Gardeners
- Skagit Conservation District
- Hardware stores such as Lowes or Home Depot
- Online sources
- Domestic mail
- Email
- Social media
- Newspaper
- Skagit Farm Supply
- Other (please specify)

19. Of the following local organizations, who would you prefer to receive messages from about land and water management practices in the Skagit? (please select all that apply)

- Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
- Skagit Conservation District
- Voluntary Stewardship Program
- Western Washington Agricultural Association
- Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
- WSU Skagit County Extension
- Skagit Land Trust
- Department of Ecology
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Better Ground
- Skagit Watershed Council
- Natural Resources Steward Program
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Other (please specify)

20. Do you have any suggestions to help us encourage Skagit County citizens to plant shade-providing trees? (blank text box)



21. Would you be interested in providing more details in a follow-up phone interview? If so, please enter your name and phone number in the box below.



22. Which category below includes your age? (please select one of these options)

- 17 or younger
 - 18 – 35
 - 36 – 50
 - 51 – 64
 - 65+
 - Prefer not to answer
-

23. What is your gender? (please select one of these options)

- Male
 - Female
 - Non-binary
 - Prefer not to answer
 - Other
-

24. Which best describes your race or ethnicity? (please select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino/Spanish origin
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Not Hispanic or Latino/Spanish origin
- Multiethnic or multiracial
- White or Caucasian
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)

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Thank You!

Thank you for your time and participation in our survey. Your input is greatly appreciated!

To learn more about how you can help reduce water temperatures, go to: <http://www.skagitcd.org/home>