



Skagit Survey Follow-up Interviews

Performed in February 2021

Questions we asked

1. What do you like most about living in Skagit County?
2. One of the things that Ecology wants to address is that some Skagit County streams are getting too warm in the summer months. Can you explain to me in your own words what happens when streams get too warm? Where did you learn about this?
3. Does anything about Skagit County streams getting too warm concern you? Why?
4. When you think about stream water getting too warm, what comes to your mind? If you think visually, what would it look like? (For this question we want to learn about the most common visual cues that people use to recognize warm water conditions)

Questions we asked

5. In the survey we talked about actions that some people may have taken on their properties. My understanding is that you have done _____ and _____ on your land. What motivated you to take those actions? Did you work with anyone to get those things done? Was that a positive experience?
6. **(Just for larger acreage properties on water)** Ecology would like to learn more from landowners that might consider planting trees next to their streams. What do you think would be the best way to encourage tree planting? What would make this doable for you, if anything? Examples: tax breaks, incentives, cost-share or cost-offset, rental payment for crop space, etc.
7. Ecology and a group of Skagit restoration partners are developing a series of 4 short videos. The videos will explain the Skagit warm water conditions and provide examples of local solutions. We would like to show local people taking action on their land. What would make these videos most interesting to you? What would you like to see included? Who would you like to see talking? Would you like to see someone from Ecology speaking in the videos? Would you be interested in being a part of this video/being featured? *** only if they are appropriate for this role**

Questions we asked

8. Along with the videos, we are also putting together an interactive website to provide Skagit County citizens with more information about how streams are warming and links to local resources to get involved. What information would be beneficial to you? What would you like to see included on this website?
9. We're offering folks who've talked with us the opportunity to review the website and let us know if we've got it right. Would you like to test the website once it is ready? Can I get your email to send you the link when we are ready for you to review it?
10. Related to this discussion, is there anything else you would like to talk about? Anything we didn't cover?
11. Is there someone else you think we should talk to about this?

Who we interviewed

Focused on 2 categories:

- Agricultural landowners
- Large properties on water



Findings from interviews



Findings from interviews

- People were willing to talk, for a long time
- Ecology is seen as a key player by public
- All great experiences working with SCD
- Gained opportunities for interviews for videos/storymap
- Keep it simple, present the facts

Findings from interviews

- Farmers would like to see diversity in age groups represented
(legacy farmers vs newcomers)
- A lot of talk about increasing incentives, availability
- Desire for creative solutions: harvestable buffers
- Desire for educational content that explains complexity of the problem, not just pointing the finger at reduced tree cover