



LOCALLY GROWN, INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN

Straddling the powerful Skagit River, Skagit County stretches westward some 160 miles from the towering Cascade Mountains to the famed waters of the San Juan Islands. It's an idyllic landscape of glacier-covered peaks, forested uplands, fertile soils, wild shorelines—and an enviable way of life cherished by artists, foodies, visitors and residents alike.

The challenge to preserve this unique, irreplaceable agricultural valley is local—and *global*.

Skagit Valley is known as having some of the most agriculturally productive and valuable farmland in the world. Farming is among the county's largest industries, producing over \$300 million in products. Over 93,000 acres support more than 80 different crops plus livestock and dairy products. Skagit grows more flower bulbs than any U.S. county. It's a major producer of vegetable seeds shipped 'round the world.

The impact of Skagit farming is felt at home and around the globe.

HISTORY

Farming roots run generations deep in the rich, fertile Skagit Valley. In the late 1800s early settlers discovered a valuable resource beneath the harvest of the valley's towering fir and cedar trees and along its marshy shores—soil built up over thousands of years that would grow just about anything. By 1940, over 150,000 acres were being farmed by more than 3,000 farmers—numbers that, sadly, have since declined steadily under growth and development pressures.

In 1989, spurred by an unsuccessful attempt at major commercial development on prime farmland, five local farm families and their supporters joined together to found Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland.

More than 20 years later, SPF is a highly respected membership-based nonprofit, governed by an active board of working farmers and community members.

The SPF mission is simple and increasingly vital: to protect and enhance Skagit agriculture and the responsible stewardship of farmland.



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HERITAGE · CULTURE · QUALITY OF LIFE
WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT A VALUABLE LEGACY

Today's lush Skagit Valley is a unique and enviable patchwork of modest towns, varied industries, public lands, wildlife refuges, and flourishing farmlands. The valley's big sky landscape is also home to raptors, waterfowl, migratory birds, small mammals and six species of salmon. All play a vital role in the valley's delicate balance of beauty, tranquility . . . and fresh, local and safe foods— sustainable sustenance for the region and the world.

Poised, however, between the major metropolitan areas of Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., Skagit County faces growing population and development pressures. Farmers confront additional economic pressures from unpredictable crop prices, competition from corporate agriculture and climatic uncertainties.

Fortunately, there's Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, bringing together farmers and friends to support the valley's agricultural stability and longevity.

Farmland Protection

In the same way farmers partner to rotate crops on each other's land, SPF partners with the county's Farmland Legacy Program and willing landowners, securing agricultural easements to protect farmland from conversion to non-agricultural uses.

Agricultural Infrastructure

SPF supports policies and regulations that positively impact the complex infrastructure upon which farming is built—research and planning, drainage and irrigation, fertilizer and equipment, and dealers and markets, to name just a few.



Economic Viability

Specialty and row crops, dairy and livestock, organic and conventional—SPF works to assure that farms of all sizes and types can remain viable.

Community Support

SPF builds and maintains a valuable core of community support for local agriculture through fun-filled education, outreach and volunteer opportunities. It's a community in which supporters know the farmers who grow their food and where all value the quality of life that Skagit Valley farming preserves. It's a community that understands that by working together we stand the best chance of sustaining one of the most productive agricultural valleys left in the world.



YOU, TOO, CAN HELP
PROTECT SKAGIT AGRICULTURE

When you join Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland, your donations and volunteer efforts

- help protect farms, farming and farmland with enduring conservation easements
- educate the public with roadside crop identification signs and "Talking Fields"
- cultivate an ever-stronger voice behind policies and regulations that support the long-term viability of Skagit agriculture.

Call the SPF office or return the attached form to stand up for agriculture that's sustainable and local.

YES, I WANT TO JOIN
SKAGITONIANS TO PRESERVE FARMLAND!

Annual Membership Levels

- \$25 \$100 \$500 OTHER
 \$50 \$250 \$1,000 { \$ _____ }

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

- Check to SPF enclosed
 Pledge (see below)
 Please charge my credit card: VISA/MasterCard

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXP. ____/____

SIGNATURE: _____

Join online at www.skagitonians.org

Please send pledge reminders Monthly Quarterly
until I have satisfied my
total pledge amount of { \$ _____ }

Contact your company's human resources department to find out about matching gift opportunities.

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.



Please mail to:
SKAGITONIANS TO
PRESERVE FARMLAND
P.O. BOX 2405
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We never share donor information with other organizations.