

**PART 1—
INTRODUCTION**

CHAPTER 1.

PLANNING PARTNER PARTICIPATION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Region X of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Washington Emergency Management Division both encourage multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning. Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR) states the following regarding multi-jurisdictional planning (Section 201.6.a(4)):

“Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.”

For the preparation of this update to the Snohomish County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, the Snohomish County Planning Partnership was formed to pursue grant funding for the update and to meet requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) for as many eligible local governments in Snohomish County as possible. The DMA defines a local government as follows:

“Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.”

There are two types of planning partners in this process, with distinct needs and capabilities: cities and the County; and special purpose districts.

1.2 THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

1.2.1 Initial Solicitation and Letters of Intent

Based on input received during the plan maintenance progress reporting, it was anticipated that not all planning partners from the initial hazard mitigation plan would participate in the plan update. All planning partners were asked to re-commit to the process by submitting letters of intent to participate. A plan update “kick-off” meeting was held on March 16, 2009, at which this “reenlistment” process was explained. All eligible local governments in the planning area were invited to attend, along with various agency and citizen stakeholders. The goals of the meeting were as follows:

- Provide an overview of the Disaster Mitigation Act.
- Provide an update on the planning grant.
- Outline the Snohomish County plan update work plan.
- Describe the benefits of multi-jurisdictional planning.
- Solicit planning partners.
- Confirm a Steering Committee.

The planning team received letters of intent to participate from 36 jurisdictions, as listed in Table 1-1.

TABLE 1-1. PLANNING PARTNERS	
City of Arlington	Snohomish Co. Fire District #24
Town of Darrington	Snohomish Co. Fire District #26
City of Gold Bar	North County Regional Fire Authority
City of Granite Falls	Alderwood Water & Wastewater District
Town of Index	Cross Valley Water District
City of Lake Stevens	Highland Water District
City of Marysville	Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District
City of Monroe	Silver Lake Water & Sewer District
City of Snohomish	Darrington School District
Snohomish County	Northshore Park & Recreation Service Area
City of Stanwood	Sultan School District #311
City of Sultan	Snohomish County Dike District #2
Snohomish Co. Fire District #1	Marshland Flood Control District
Snohomish Co. Fire District #3	Stillaguamish Flood Control District
Snohomish Co. Fire District #4	French Slough Flood Control District
Snohomish Co. Fire District #5	Snohomish County Health District
Snohomish Co. Fire District #7	Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD)
Snohomish Co. Fire District #19	

Maps 1-1 and 1-2 at the end of this chapter show the location of participating special purpose districts. Maps for participating cities are provided in the individual annex for each city. These maps will be updated periodically as changes to the partnership occur, either through linkage or by a partner dropping out due to a failure to participate.

1.2.2 Planning Partner Expectations

The planning team developed a list of planning partner expectations, which were confirmed at a planning partner meeting held on July 16, 2009. These are detailed in Appendix A and summarized below:

- Each partner will provide a “Letter of Intent to Participate.”
- Each partner will support and participate in the selection and function of the Steering Committee overseeing the development of the update. Support includes allowing this body to make decisions regarding plan development and scope on behalf of the partnership.
- Each partner will provide support for the public involvement strategy developed by the Steering Committee in the form of mailing lists, possible meeting space, and media outreach such as newsletters, newspapers or direct-mailed brochures.
- Each partner will participate in plan update development activities such as:
 - Steering Committee meetings
 - Public meetings or open houses
 - Workshops and planning partner training sessions

- Public review and comment periods prior to adoption.

Attendance will be tracked at such activities, and attendance records will be used to track and document participation for each planning partner. No minimum level of participation will be established, but each planning partner should attempt to attend all such activities.

- Each partner will be expected to perform a “consistency review” of all technical studies, plans, and ordinances specific to hazards identified within the planning area to determine the existence of plans, studies or ordinances not consistent with the equivalent documents reviewed in preparation of the County plan. For example: if a planning partner has a floodplain management plan that makes recommendations that are not consistent with any of the County’s basin plans, that plan will need to be reviewed for probable incorporation into the plan for the partner’s area.
- Each partner will be expected to review the risk assessment and identify hazards and vulnerabilities specific to its jurisdiction. Contract resources will provide jurisdiction-specific mapping and technical consultation to aid in this task, but the determination of risk and vulnerability will be up to each partner.
- Each partner will be expected to review the mitigation recommendations chosen for the overall county and determine if they will meet the needs of its jurisdiction. Projects within each jurisdiction consistent with the overall plan recommendations will need to be identified, prioritized and reviewed to determine their benefits and costs.
- Each partner will be required to create its own action plan that identifies each project, who will oversee the task, how it will be financed and when it is estimated to occur.
- Each partner will be required to sponsor at least one public meeting to present the draft plan at least two weeks prior to adoption.
- Each partner will be required to formally adopt the plan.

It should be noted that by adopting this plan, each planning partner also agrees to the plan implementation and maintenance protocol established in Chapter 7 of Volume 1. Failure to meet these criteria may result in a partner being dropped from the partnership by the Steering Committee, and thus losing its eligibility under the scope of this plan.

1.2.3 Linkage Procedures

Eligible local jurisdictions that did not participate in development of this hazard mitigation plan update may comply with DMA requirements by linking to this update following the procedures outlined in Appendix B.

1.3 ANNEX-PREPARATION

1.3.1 Templates

Templates were created to help the planning partners prepare their jurisdiction-specific annexes. Since special purpose districts operate differently from towns or cities, separate templates were created for the two types of jurisdictions. The templates were created so that all criteria of Section 201.6 of 44CFR would be met, based on the partners’ capabilities and mode of operation. Each partner was asked to participate in a technical assistance workshop during which key elements of the template were completed by a designated point of contact for each partner and a member of the planning team. The templates were set up to lead each partner through a series of steps that would generate the DMA-required elements that

are specific for each partner. The templates and their instructions can be found in Appendices C and D to this volume of the hazard mitigation plan update.

1.3.2 Workshop

Workshops were held on March 30, and 31, 2010 for planning partners to learn about the templates and the overall planning process. Separate sessions were held for special purpose districts and municipalities, in order to better address each type of partner’s needs. The sessions provided technical assistance and an overview of the template completion process. Attendance at this workshop was mandatory under the planning partner expectations established by the Steering Committee. There was 100-percent attendance of the partnership at these sessions. Topics discussed included the following:

- DMA
- Risk ranking
- Snohomish County plan background
- Developing your action plan
- The templates
- Cost/benefit review

In the risk-ranking exercise, each planning partner was asked to rank each risk specifically for its jurisdiction, based on the impact on its constituency or facilities. Cities were asked to base this ranking on probability of occurrence and the potential impact on people, property and economy. Special purpose districts were asked to base this ranking on probability of occurrence and the potential impact on their constituency, their vital facilities and the facilities’ functionality after an event. The methodology followed that used for the county-wide risk ranking presented in Volume 1. A principal objective of this exercise was to familiarize the partnership with how to use the risk assessment as a tool to support other planning and hazard mitigation processes. Tools utilized during these sessions included:

- The Snohomish County Risk Assessment results
- Hazard maps for all nine hazards of concern
- Special district boundary maps that illustrated the sphere of influence for each special purpose district partner
- Hazard mitigation catalogs
- Federal funding and technical assistance catalog
- Copies of partners’ prior annexes (if applicable)
- Progress reports.

1.3.3 Benefit/Cost Review

Each jurisdiction’s annex includes an action plan of prioritized initiatives to mitigate natural hazards. 44CFR requires the prioritization of the action plan to emphasize a cost/benefit review of the proposed projects (Section 201.6.c.3iii). Planning partners were asked to weigh the estimated benefits of a project versus the estimated costs to establish a parameter to be used in prioritization. This benefit/cost review was qualitative and did not include the level of detail required under certain FEMA grant programs. This qualitative approach was used because projects may not be implemented for up to 10 years, and the associated costs and benefits could change dramatically in that time. Each project was assessed by assigning subjective ratings (high, medium, and low) to costs and benefits as follows:

- Costs:
 - **High:** Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project, and implementation would require an increase in revenue through an alternative source (for example, bonds, grants, and fee increases).

- **Medium:** The project could be implemented with existing funding but would require a re-apportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.
- **Low:** The project could be funded under the existing budget. The project is part of or can be part of an existing, ongoing program.
- Benefits:
 - **High:** Project will have an immediate impact reducing risk exposure to life and property.
 - **Medium:** Project will have a long-term impact reducing risk exposure to life and property or will provide an immediate reduction in the risk exposure to property.
 - **Low:** Long-term benefits of the project are difficult to quantify in the short term.

Using this approach, projects with positive benefit-versus-cost ratios (such as high over high, high over medium, medium over low, etc.) are considered cost-beneficial and are prioritized accordingly.

For many of the initiatives identified in the action plans, planning partners may seek financial assistance under FEMA’s hazard mitigation grant programs such as:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program
- Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) grant program
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) grant program.

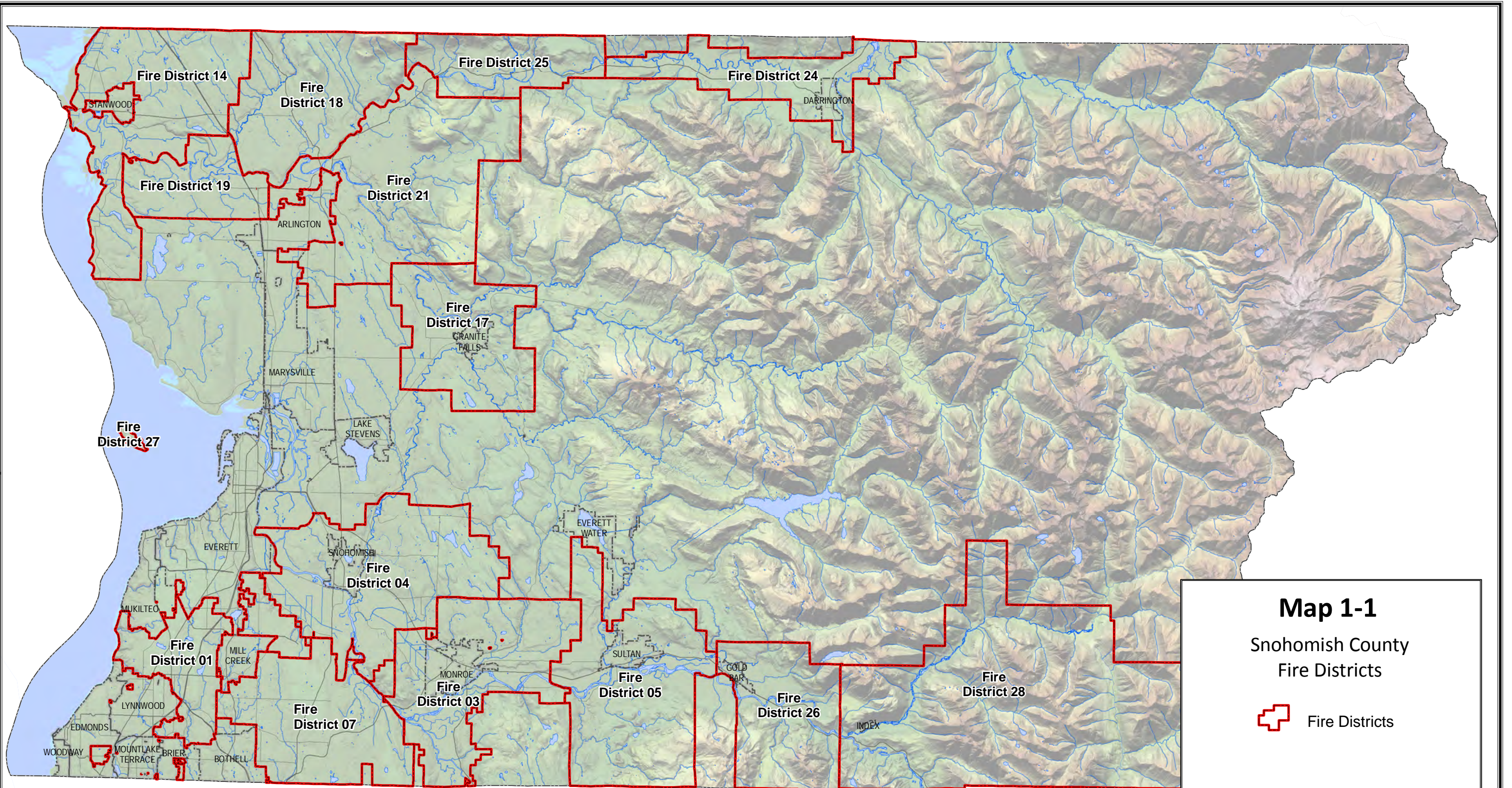
Most of these programs will require detailed benefit/cost analysis as part of the application process. These analyses will be performed when funding applications are prepared, using the FEMA model process. The partners are committed to implementing mitigation strategies with benefits that exceed costs. For projects not seeking financial assistance from grant programs that require this sort of analysis, the partners reserve the right to define “benefits” according to parameters that meet their needs and the goals and objectives of this plan.

1.4 PARTNER ANNEX COMMON ACRONYMS


Acronyms and abbreviations used in the partner annexes in this volume are listed for convenience in Table 1-2.

**TABLE 1-2.
COMMON ACRONYMS USE IN PLANNING PARTNER ANNEXES**

44CFR—Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations	NFIP—National Flood Insurance Program
AWWD—Alderwood Water and Wastewater District	NPDES—National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
CDBG—Community Development Block Grant program	NPRSA—Northshore Parks and Recreation Service Area
CEMP—Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	OFM—Washington State Office of Financial Management
CIP—Capital Improvement Program	OSPI—Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
CRS—Community Rating System	P&R—Snohomish County Parks & Recreation
CTED—Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development	PDM—Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program
DCVA—Double check valve assembly	PDS—Snohomish County Planning and Development Services
DEM—Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management	PLS—Public Land Surveyor
DNR—Washington Department of Natural Resources	PRV—Pressure-reducing valve
EMPG—Emergency Management Performance Grant program	PUD—Public Utility District
EMS—Emergency Medical Services	PW—Snohomish County Public Works
EOC—Emergency Operations Center	PWTF—Public Works Trust Fund
EOP—Emergency Operations Plan	RCW—Revised Code of Washington
ERP—Emergency Response Plan	REET—Real Estate Excise Tax
FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency	RFC—Repetitive Flood Claims grant program
FMA—Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program	SCADA—Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
GMA—Washington State Growth Management Act	SCC—Snohomish County Code
HIVA—Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis	SHSG—State Homeland Security Grant program
HMGP—Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	SRL—Severe Repetitive Loss grant program.
IAC—Interagency Committee	SWM—Snohomish County Surface Water Management Division
IBC—International Building Code	UBC—Uniform Building Code
MWWD—Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District	UGA—Urban Growth Area
NCRFA—North County Regional Fire Authority	WRIA—Water Resource Inventory Area
NEHRP—National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program	WSDOT—Washington State Department of Transportation



Map 1-1
 Snohomish County
 Fire Districts

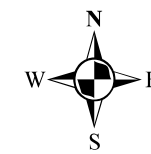
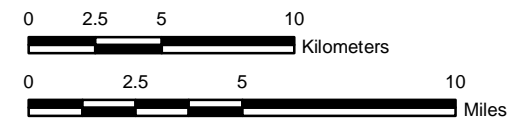
 Fire Districts

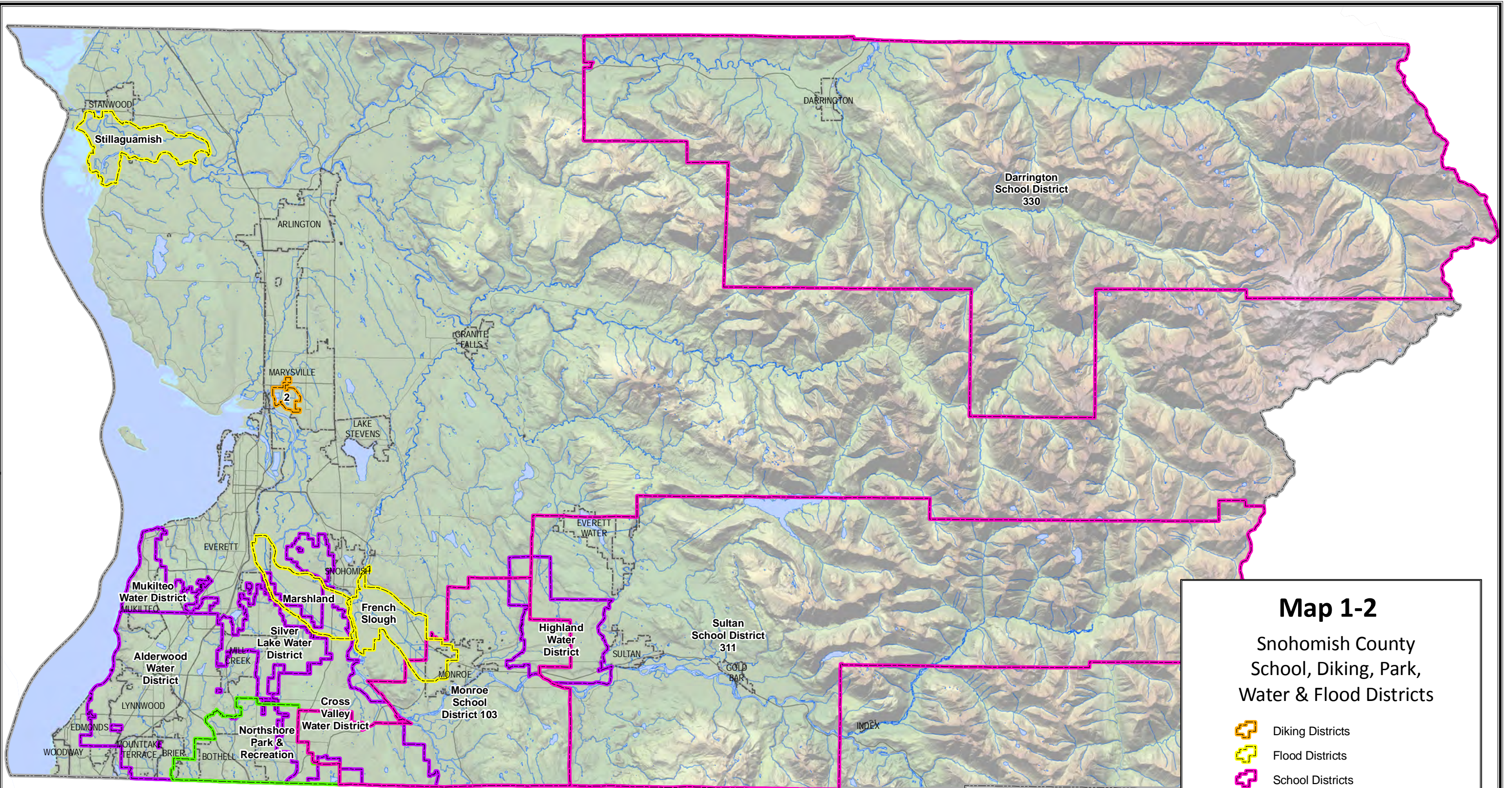


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 May 2010







Data Sources:
 Snohomish County
 Washington State Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Geology and Earth Resources





Map 1-2

Snohomish County School, Diking, Park, Water & Flood Districts

-  Diking Districts
-  Flood Districts
-  School Districts
-  Parks & Recreation Districts
-  Water/Wastewater Districts
-  Snohomish County*

*Represents Snohomish County PUD District #1 and the Snohomish Health District boundaries



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