

Results for the 2023 Skokomish Flood Survey

A survey was sent to 255 Skokomish Valley landowners. Landowners with known email addresses were notified of the opportunity to respond on April 21, 2023. Surveys were also mailed to all landowners on April 24, 2023. A reminder was also sent out on May 11, 2023. A total of 65 surveys were returned. The results are summarized herein, and are reported in the same order as the survey questions.

How long have you and your family had property in the Skokomish Valley?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Multiple generations | 31% |
| 1-10 years | 23% |
| 25 + years | 23% |
| 10 -25 years | 22% |
| No Response | 2% |

Do you live in the Skokomish floodway (within the 100-year flood)?

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Yes | 46% |
| Not sure | 34% |
| No | 17% |
| No Response | 3% |

What do you consider to be your property's top three uses?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Residential | 30% |
| Farming/Garden | 25% |
| Livestock/Agriculture | 13% |
| Rural | 11% |
| Natural Area | 8% |
| Recreation/Vacation | 6% |
| Rental | 3% |
| Timberland | 3% |
| No Response | 1% |

Write-in Comments:

Salmon Run, 2nd home/retirement, Hatchery, Community Gatherings

How often has your property flooded since 2013?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Multiple times per year | 45% |
| Never | 31% |
| Repeatedly over the years | 9% |
| Rarely | 8% |
| Occasionally over the years | 6% |
| No Response | 2% |

What is the typical duration of flooding on your property?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 2-3 days | 37% |
| Does not flood | 34% |
| A day or less | 11% |
| Longer than one week | 11% |
| A week | 6% |
| No Response | 2% |

Check all flood impacts you have experienced on your property during the past ten years?

| | |
|--|-----|
| No access to/from home | 17% |
| Loss of land or soil from erosion | 13% |
| Loss of power, heat, or communication | 11% |
| Loss of agricultural use from high water table | 7% |
| Loss of pasture use - livestock had to be moved | 6% |
| Damage to other structures | 5% |
| Flood damage to vehicles/equipment | 5% |
| Damage to home | 4% |
| Septic system problems | 4% |
| Fewer cuttings of hay | 4% |
| None | 4% |
| Loss or damage to livestock feed/hay | 4% |
| Quit growing certain types of crops | 3% |
| Drinking water supply impacts | 3% |
| Emergency responders had trouble reaching me or were delayed | 3% |
| Loss of livestock/animal lives | 2% |
| Loss of agricultural use from high water table | 1% |
| No Response | 1% |

Write-In Comments:

- Possible water table issues,
- Debris in fence line, Lower field is turning into a swamp,
- Access to work site at satellite hatchery up valley,
- NO Access to/from home,
- Unable to Host Meetings resulting in financial loss from rental fees

Have you installed any permanent flood protection measures on your property?

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| No | 82% |
| Yes | 15% |
| No Response | 3% |

If no, what are the barriers?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Don't know what will help | 33% |
| Regulations | 15% |
| Finances | 10% |
| No Response | 42% |

Write in Comments:

- Didn't think I was allowed to. I was informed several years ago that alterations to the "natural" flood path could be fined and destroyed.
- Our property doesn't flood
- County wont let us
- Government
- none

If yes, what permanent flood measures have you implemented on your property?

- I don't know what is meant by "permanent flood protection." It seems to me that all man-made interventions are temporary. Nature always wins. At best, we can only mitigate.
Our house has flood vents
- House is raised on higher foundation. Cleared brush in low drainage areas for flow release. Repaired the existing farmers levee/dyke/burm in the back.
- I believe previous land owner constructed a dike system in the riparian area
- Don't use south acreage.
- Sand bags for garage doors
- Raised house
- Clean the creek out every summer when it dries up.
- Log jam, Raised house
- Rocks to line the banks and trees to plant along the bank.
- Increasing screen height to contain fish
- Raised the house

- Flood wall

What is the length of time that flooding affects your ability to travel to and from your property?

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| 2-3 days | 38% |
| Multiple days | 20% |
| Does not affect travel | 20% |
| More than a week | 9% |
| Less than a day | 6% |
| More than two weeks | 3% |
| No Response | 3% |
| A month or greater | 0% |

Please check all flood related impacts on your day-to-day life during the last ten years?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Mail, garbage, delivery service disruptions | 17% |
| Clean up of flood deposited debris | 15% |
| Increased stress from fear of flood damage/loss | 12% |
| Decreased property values | 11% |
| Clean up of flood deposited debris | 11% |
| Vehicle damage from flooded roads | 9% |
| Can't get necessary medication/medical treatment | 6% |
| Loss of insurance or increased rates | 5% |
| Financial loss due to flood damage | 5% |
| No Response | 5% |
| Conflict with regulators over flooding | 4% |
| Conflict with Neighbors over flooding | 0% |

Write in Comments:

- Suppression of property values is an impact but not a negative impact. Affordable housing is a good thing. Flood zone properties should always be cheaper.
- Repair erosion
- Harder to sell home
- No alternative exits from valley
- None
- Can't guarantee event dates from September until March.
- Needing to move animals to higher ground
- Installed Pump for continuous standing water in craw space & increased electric usage.

What are the top three impacts that are most important to you to resolve?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Standing water on roads | 20% |
| Uninterrupted access to your home or property | 20% |
| Access to fire and medical services | 14% |
| Property uses (farm, recreation, etc) impacted or diminished | 12% |
| Property impacts (fences, septic systems, drinking water, etc) | 12% |
| Development restrictions | 11% |
| Declining property values | 6% |
| No Response | 5% |

Write in Comments:

- I would like to keep the water out of my house, if possible, but this is a flood zone so the house probably will flood eventually. A river goes where it wants.
- Release of water from the dam on Lake Cushman
- Damage to roads poor repairs

How are you alerted to a predicted flood event in your area? Check all that apply.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| River gauge on website | 29% |
| Weather website | 24% |
| County website or alert service | 21% |
| TV News | 14% |
| Neighbor | 9% |
| No Response | 4% |

Write in Comments:

- TPU alert for releases from damn
- I just see the water next to my house when I get home from work, that's how I know when it flooded. I don't need anybody to tell me.
- The county alert service is terrible and public works is seems to close and open the road on a whim and not based on actual conditions
- Experience
- Aware of water levels on property
- Historical Knowledge
- Phone alert
- 56 years of common sense
- River Graph (NOAA)
- Go outside watch river
- Self-monitoring & observation
- Facebook groups
- look out window

What information do you use to determine flood extent and impacts? Check all that apply?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Water depths on road | 21% |
| River gauge | 16% |
| Water depths on your property | 15% |
| Website/Apps | 14% |
| Road closures | 11% |
| Water depths on neighbor's property | 8% |
| TV News | 7% |
| Observed property damage | 6% |
| No response | 2% |

Write in Comments:

- Observe height of river at certain points
- Experience
- Common knowledge
- Watch the river
- Continuous loss of trees
- Weather alert for Skokomish valley

What river gauges do you track?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Skokomish River near Potlach, WA - 12061500 | 48% |
| South Fork Skokomish River near Union, WA - 12060500 | 20% |
| North Fork Skokomish River near Potlach, WA - 12059500 | 14% |
| No Response | 18% |

Write in Comments:

- Skokomish Valley Road Gauges
- I've never heard the term "river gauges" but they don't affect my day-to-day plans so I guess that's why.

Skokomish Flood Trends

| | Increased | Decreased | Stayed the same | No Response |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Over the past ten years flooding on your property has? | 31% | 11% | 49% | 9% |
| Over the past ten years, flooding in the lower valley has? | 49% | 3% | 34% | 14% |
| Over the past ten years, flooding in the upper valley has? | 31% | 14% | 35% | 20% |
| Do you believe flooding overall has? | 45% | 9% | 32% | 14% |
| Do you believe the community's attention to flooding has? | 42% | 14% | 32% | 12% |
| Do you believe flood resource assistance has? | 17% | 15% | 49% | 18% |

Would you say?

| | Improving flooding | No impact | Worsening flooding | No Response |
|---|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Climate change is | 2% | 38% | 43% | 17% |
| Geologic conditions are | 5% | 34% | 35% | 26% |
| Roads bridges and culverts in the watershed are | 20% | 28% | 34% | 18% |
| Forest practices are | 14% | 14% | 55% | 17% |
| Agricultural practices are | 8% | 58% | 17% | 17% |
| River channel capacity is | 5% | 9% | 71% | 15% |

Flood Concern Questions

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | No Response |
|--|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| You are concerned with future flooding on your property | 2% | 8% | 14% | 31% | 37% | 9% |
| You are interested in participating in current and or future flood resiliency efforts | 2% | 9% | 29% | 34% | 17% | 9% |
| Your property has been degraded by flood impacts over the last 10 years | 5% | 15% | 15% | 29% | 26% | 9% |
| You are interested in participating in a community based monitoring program | 3% | 11% | 37% | 28% | 9% | 12% |
| Fish habitat projects can have multiple benefits such as reducing the likelihood of flooding | 8% | 8% | 28% | 23% | 17% | 17% |
| Flooding is reduced due to management activities in the Skokomish Watershed | 12% | 12% | 37% | 15% | 6% | 17% |
| The length of time each flood event persists is getting shorter | 18% | 29% | 26% | 8% | 2% | 17% |
| The severity of flooding has decreased over the last 10 years | 22% | 28% | 23% | 9% | 2% | 17% |
| The Skokomish Community is resolving flood challenges in the valley | 23% | 22% | 32% | 6% | 0% | 17% |

