

“Shaping the Skagit” – extension/ assessment activity (time required: 1 hour)

An empowering, student-generated, land-use & watershed planning exercise, based on the Komo Kulshan Outdoor School curriculum and experience

- Hellos, welcomes, thanks yous! Revisit the KKOS experience and explain that as KKOS “graduates” they now have an opportunity to use their new knowledge in real and powerful ways: *determining the future of our valley/watershed*. I.E.: “In a few short years, you will be the voters (and the deciders) of our future, so here is a model to try it out on!” Visually “visit” the feltboard, describing the map and it’s features, including where your students live– **5 min.**
- Divide class into their two “clans” (Osprey and Rainbow Trout) and separate the groups physically in the room– one adult per group as moderator/guide. Delegate each clan into: 2 sub-“Working Groups” for each Option (using the A and B sub-groups works best), also select the “Speaker/Narrator” (1) and “Negotiator”(1) for each group – **10 min.**
- Have the Narrator read the scenario out loud. Lead discussion and answer any questions. Define vocabulary words: *economics, benefits, zoning, profit, sustainable, option* – **10 min.**
- Give each Working Group an Choice (to illustrate and defend) – **5 min.**
- Re-group and decide which Choice to choose – use democratic voting method – **5 min.**
- Hand out felt board items to the Negotiator – they will be the one to illustrate and describe/defend their group’s choice. – **5 min.**

Class reconvenes together. Re-read each scenario out loud. – **5 min.**

- Reports by each group, defending their position after illustrating it on the feltboard.- **10 min. ea** (*Be sure to offer each group the opportunity to re-work, or change their minds – especially after seeing what the valley “looks like” after their choice has been illustrated. This is a very important discussion, and can include: the value of being involved/voting, the importance of being well-informed BEFORE voting, and listening to each other*)

Wrap-up with a congratulations for using their knowledge and experiences, listening to others, seeing alternatives, and being involved in the process. “Award” each student with a certificate of completion/graduation from Komo Kulshan Outdoor School. – **10 min.**

ENJOY!

“Shaping the Skagit” – a land use lesson plan

Scenario #1: Forestland (green felt)

Your family has owned hundreds of acres of forestland in the Skagit for generations. Your great grandparents homesteaded this land, and your grandparents logged the timber, which helped to build the current Skagit valley. Your parents inherited the logged-over lands, and now YOU have to make some important decisions about it’s future. Here are your options:

Choice # 1: The land seems far more valuable to sell to developers than to keep in forestry zoning (raise for trees). You choose to change the zoning to “residential” and sell off the acreage to developers for a huge profit – *illustrate with stumps, roads, cars, and houses*

Choice # 2: The land grows trees extremely well – it is not too steep and erosion problems are minimal. You choose to replant and grow trees for a sustainable forest (future lumber, paper, and oxygen) – but it is a choice that may take a lifetime before realizing any economic benefit. – *illustrate with small trees*

Choice # 3: The land is close enough to I-5 and Hwy 20 that camping, hunting, fishing, or hiking seems to be a possible use. You choose to place the land in Open Space/Recreation zoning and develop a campground and trails for these uses. Economic benefits are moderate, but long-term. – *illustrate with tents, trees, trails, salmon, footprint, and bicycle.*

Scenario #2: Farmlands (brown felt)

Your family has many of acres of prime Skagit flats farmland for generations. Your great grandparents homesteaded the land, your grandparents and parents farmed it, and now YOU have to make some important decisions about it’s future. Here are your options:

Choice # 1: Realizing that the population explosion in Skagit County is one of the fastest growing in the USA, you choose to re-zone from “agricultural” to “residential” and sub-divide the land into hundreds of home sites. You sell to developers for a huge profit, and the landscape is forever changed – *illustrate with roads, cars, houses, factories, power plant, and shopping malls (to support the increased population)*

Choice # 2: Realizing that Skagit Valley farmland is some of the most productive in the USA, you choose to continue farming (growing food), although your economic rewards may be limited – *illustrate with crops, livestock, tractors, and farms*

Option 3: Realizing that even if you want to continue to farm and grow food, land development pressures (and increasing land taxes) may be too great for you to afford. You choose to place your land in a Conservation Easement or Land Trust, assuring that it will always be in “Agricultural” zoning and never sub-divided for development. No real economic benefit for you, but are there other benefits? – *illustrate with crops, livestock, trees, wildlife, salmon, and open space.*

Cut and paste these options on 4 x 6 cards for each Working Group

Scenario #1: Forested land (green felt)

Your family has owned hundreds of acres of forestland in the Skagit for generations. Your great grandparents homesteaded this land, and your grandparents harvested the timber, which helped to build the current Skagit valley towns. Your parents inherited these lands, and now YOU have to make some important decisions about it's future. Here is your choice:

Choice # 1: The land seems far more valuable to sell to developers than to keep in forestry zoning (to raise for trees). You choose to change the zoning from “forestry” to “residential” and sell off the acreage to developers for a huge profit – *illustrate with stumps, roads, cars, and houses*

Scenario #1: Forested land (green felt)

Your family has owned hundreds of acres of forestland in the Skagit for generations. Your great grandparents homesteaded this land, and your grandparents logged the timber, which helped to build the current Skagit valley communities. Your parents inherited the logged-over lands, and now YOU have to make some important decisions about it's future. Here is your choice:

Choice # 2: The land grows trees extremely well – it is not too steep and erosion problems are minimal. You choose to replant and grow trees for a sustainable forest (future lumber, paper, wildlife habitats, oxygen-producing habitat, etc. that will go on forever) – but it is a choice that may take your lifetime before realizing any real, economic benefit. – *illustrate with small trees*

Scenario #1: Forested land (green felt)

Your family has owned hundreds of acres of forestland in the Skagit for generations. Your great grandparents homesteaded this land, and your grandparents logged the timber, which helped to build the current Skagit valley. Your parents inherited the harvested lands, and now YOU have to make some important decisions about it's future. Here is your option:

Choice # 3: The land is close enough to I-5 and Hwy 20 that outdoor recreation (camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback and bicycle riding, etc.) seems to be a possible use. You choose to place the land in Open Space/Recreation zoning and develop a campground and trails for these uses. Economic benefits are moderate, but are long-term. – *illustrate with tents, trees, trails, salmon, footprint, and bicycle.*

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