What is it?

In August 2014, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC) a grant to create an economic redevelopment plan for the North Stillaguamish River Valley. A Working Group, composed of elected officials, representatives from key Snohomish County offices, Washington State University and Workforce Snohomish, gave regular guidance to the team. Additionally, a rigorous outreach process - including community forums, expert interviews and formal and informal business surveys - shaped content of the plan in a meaningful way. The report includes an economic profile that establishes context for the goals, strategies and actions that follow.

Why is it important?

On March 22, 2014, a massive landslide near Oso, Washington, in the North Stillaguamish Valley covered an area of approximately one square mile with mud and debris in less than a minute, killing 43 people and destroying 36 homes. This disaster created acute impacts and exacerbated the long-term economic challenges facing this rural valley. This plan is part of the community’s effort to achieve sustainable, long-term economic development.

What happens now?

Many of the action steps are specific and ready for implementation today, and others require additional collaboration amongst local leaders to add detail for execution. The EASC will continue to coordinate and lead implementation conversations and advance key strategies for long-term success in the North Stillaguamish Valley.

What did we learn?

The economic profile relied on rigorous analysis of demographic and economic data from various sources, as well as historical research and a deep stakeholder engagement process. The following findings underpin the strategies.

- Economic roots in resource industries - timber, mining
- Arlington's economy has diversified into industrial sectors
- Population growth concentrated in urban areas of County
- Little population growth in much of Valley
- Higher concentration of residents aged 65+ than region
- Higher concentration of family households in Arlington
- Less racially diverse than the region except Hispanic pop.
- Lower rates of educational attainment & household income
- Valley workers live throughout region
- MFG jobs in decline relative to other sectors; services growing
- Valley residents work in Arlington, Marysville, Everett, Seattle
- Arlington is the area's primary employment center & growing

The full report can be found at: https://www.economicalliancesc.org/nstillilyvalleyerp/