

Growth Targets

2003 Response to
Snohomish County Tomorrow



GMA Growth Targets: The State Context

- State goals include...
 1. Urban growth: Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.
 2. Reduce sprawl: Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

The Regional Context

- Countywide Planning Policies apply to all jurisdictions within Snohomish County, and were developed through a collaborative planning process (Snohomish County Tomorrow).
- Countywide Planning Policies include growth targets which all jurisdictions use in their planning under GMA.

Existing plans use 2012 targets

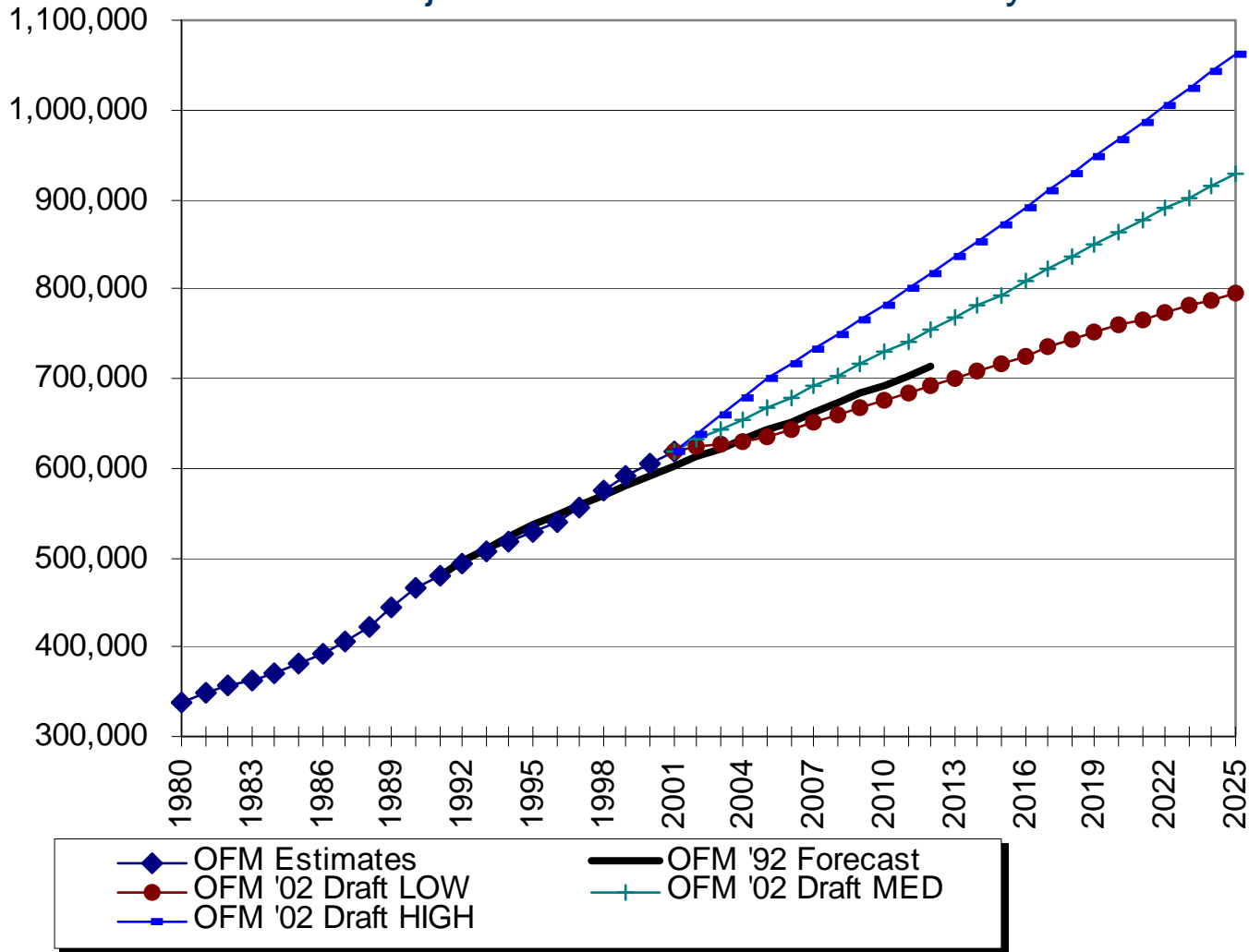
- Existing comprehensive plans are based on the original growth targets adopted by Snohomish County Tomorrow in 1994, and are through the year 2012.
- Jurisdictions planning under GMA in Snohomish County are required to update their plans by the end of 2004, and use new state growth projections to 2025.

Snohomish County trends

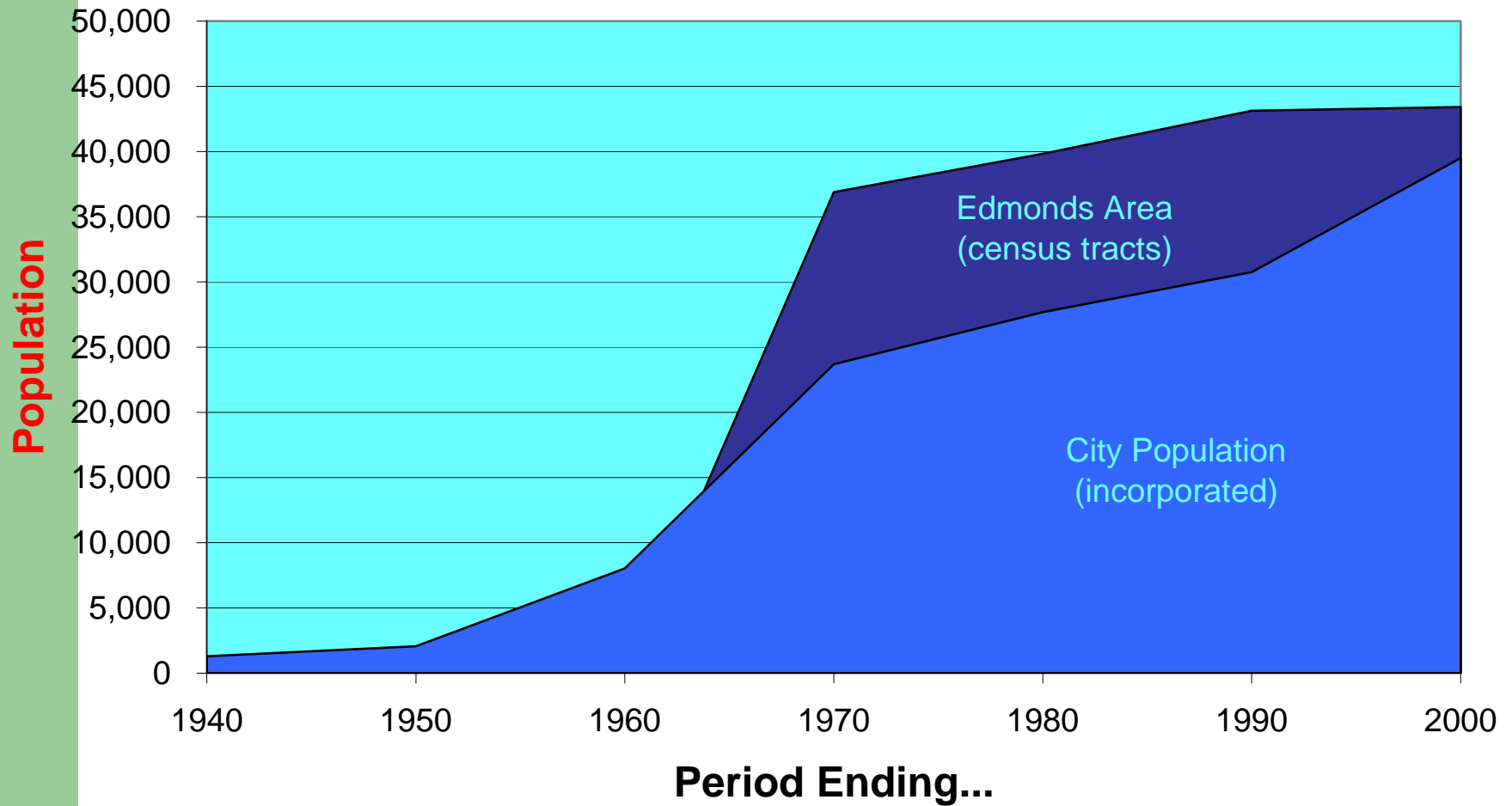
- Overall growth in Snohomish County has been tracking with the original 2012 projections, but is at the lower end of the new 2002-2025 range projected by OFM.
- The new projections by OFM offer jurisdictions a degree of choice in setting new growth targets, but the overall target must be within OFM's projected range.

New projections offer a range of choice

OFM Projections for Snohomish County

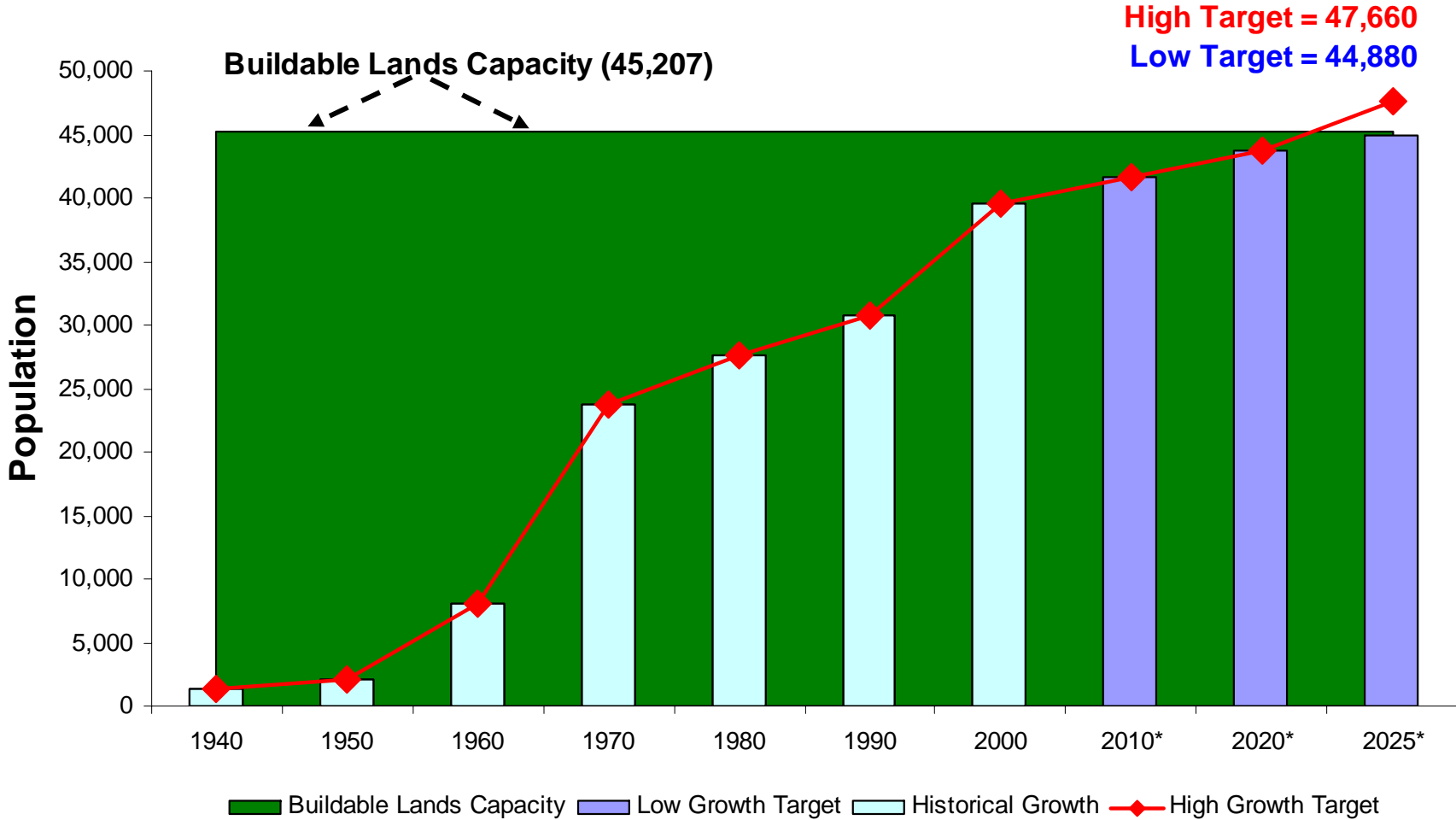


Edmonds: City vs. Area Growth



■ Edmonds Area ■ City Population

Edmonds Growth Targets vs. Historical Growth



Recommendation

- Each jurisdiction is being asked to choose a single “initial” planning target to use in its GMA plan update over the next two years.
- The staff recommendation is that the City of Edmonds choose the low end of the range for its “initial planning target.” This would be a target population of 44,880 in 2025 (the city’s 2002 population is 39,460).

Why choose the lower target?

1. The low end of the range is consistent with the city's current capacity.
2. The low end of the range is consistent with the goals and policies established in the existing comprehensive plan.
3. Choosing the low end of the range does not preclude the city from proposing a higher growth target during its plan update.

Next steps

- Jurisdictions report to Snohomish County Tomorrow by April 1, 2003.
- SCT reviews and consolidates the “initial targets,” and measures consistency with OFM projections and countywide policies.
- SCT makes recommendation to Snohomish County Council in June 2003.
- County Council adoption of initial growth targets for 2025 in September, 2003.