

CLEARANCES:	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Originator-cam c:\f1\6\15-91.ab				2/25/92	Council/Intro
Division Head-				3/10/92	Hearing
Department Head-	DWD	2/17/92			
Prosecutor Review-					
Purchasing/Budget Dir.-					
Executive-					

**SUBJECT:** FILE REF:15-91 GMA AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXISTING FORESTRY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS AS PROTECTION OF THE FORESTRY RESOURCE UNDER THE INTERIM NATURAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Agency Report with attached Staff Report  
 (Note: There is one agency report for all resource lands.)  
 Excerpts from Planning Commission Minutes: Jan. 14, Jan. 30, & Feb. 12, 1992  
 (Note: These are the same minutes for all three resource land designations.)  
 Draft Ordinance

Public Hearing Needed? Yes /    / No /XX/

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** Approximately one half of the portion of Whatcom County that lies outside of National Park or National Forest boundaries is planned and zoned for Forestry. This meets the interim requirements to protect forest lands in accordance with the Growth Management Act. Meanwhile, staff is proceeding with the Rural/Commercial Forestry split which will be considered by the Planning Commission in March and April. Once this is completed it will conclude our work on forestry protection in terms of the Growth Management Act except for ongoing fine tuning.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Planning staff recommends Council uphold the Planning Commission recommendation and adopt attached ordinance.

**COMMITTEE ACTION (including dates):**

**COUNCIL ACTION (including dates):**

3/10/92: Council adopted the ordinance. 7-0.

Related File Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance or Resolution Number: 092-014

ORDINANCE NO. 92-014

**AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXISTING FORESTRY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING DESIGNATIONS AS PROTECTION OF THE FORESTRY RESOURCE UNDER THE INTERIM NATURAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT.**

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act adopted in 1990 required Natural Resources be designated classified and protected on an interim basis by September 1991; and

WHEREAS, the 1991 amendments to the Growth Management Act allowed for extensions for up to 180 days or March 1, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the County requested and received an extension and has been working in good faith to attempt to meet the March 1 deadline; and

WHEREAS, in any case, the existing Rural and Commercial Forestry zoning have been deemed to constitute compliance with the interim requirements; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70.590, legal notice was published in the Bellingham Herald on Thursday, January 2, 1992; and

WHEREAS, a Determination of Non-significance was issued by the Deputy SEPA Official on January 14, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the amendments on January 14, 1992, and considered all public testimony on the issues; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission held work sessions to discuss the issues on January 30 and February 12, 1992, and, after due deliberation, made a determination that the proposal be approved; and

WHEREAS, the Council reviewed the Planning Commission recommendation and at a public meeting on March \_\_, 1992, reviewed and approved the Planning Commission recommendations.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL:**

1. The existing Rural and Commercial Forestry Comprehensive Plan zones designated and previously established in the various subarea plans and in Title 20, the official Whatcom County Zoning Code, are hereby considered to be Whatcom County's response to the interim requirements for protection of Forest Resource lands under the Growth Management Act.
2. The Council finds the public health, safety and general welfare are promoted by this change.
3. The Council adopts the following findings and conclusions developed by staff and adopted by the Planning Commission.

**FINDINGS**

1. The Growth Management Act (SHB 2929) requires counties to maintain natural resources based industries, including productive forest land.
2. Forest land comprises nearly half of the non-Federal land in Whatcom County.

