

**From:** Ronald Ewing <ewingrc@comcast.net>  
**To:** <rboxx@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Date:** 2/11/2009 12:04 AM  
**Subject:** Lowest population projection

Dear Council;

Please adopt the lowest population projection possible, approximately 220,000.

The following is a list of 10 reasons that I agree with.

Thank you,

Ronald C. Ewing  
415 N. State St. #303  
Bellingham, WA 98225

360-671-6417

1. The Whatcom County Council should plan our future population based upon policy considerations, not simply accept past trends.
2. Whatcom County citizens strongly favor slower growth.
3. Whatcom County is losing its rural areas to sprawl at an alarming rate, and a lower population projection will support agricultural preservation.
4. The technical analysis in support of the GMCC projection is flawed and out of date.
5. A population number at the high end may drive the unnecessary expansion of existing Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)
6. Planning for high population growth commits the county and its municipalities to provide an unaffordable level of government services and infrastructure.
7. Policies and programs aimed at guiding the character and quality of growth do not depend upon a high population projection. We can accomplish these goals more easily under a low-growth scenario.
8. Slower population growth contributes to a better quality of life and preserves the diversity of lifestyles that Whatcom residents value.
9. Population projections are, in part, self-fulfilling prophecies.
10. A lower projection is less risky and easier to adjust to actual growth patterns in the future.