

**WHATCOM COUNTY
PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES**
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Director

**FOOTHILLS SUBAREA PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DECISIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE 5/7/07 MEETING**

Date: May 8, 2007
To: Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee
From: Matt W. Aamot, Whatcom County Planning & Development

At the May 7, 2007 meeting, the Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee made the following decisions and recommendations:

1. **Foothills Vision 2027** - The Committee decided by consensus to adopt the following Vision statement:

At the outset of the Foothills Subarea Plan process, the community hosted four "vision week" workshops during June 2006. The Foothills Subarea Plan Advisory Committee (FSPAC) later created and circulated a public questionnaire designed to refine the findings of the "vision week" exercises and help shape the goals and policies contained in this plan. The vision below is based on those public outreach exercises and the recommendations from the FSPAC. It is generally consistent with the overall county vision, adding statements to make it more responsive to the Foothills' community needs.

Whatcom County's foothills are and will continue to be rural in character, preserving open spaces and natural habitat. Foothills' residents value river and stream corridors, lakes, wetlands, hillsides, forests, fields, wildlife corridors, and clean air & water. Subarea residents value the Foothills' beauty, slow-paced quality of life and the sense that they know their neighbors. The Columbia Valley will become a fully-served urban area set within this rural context, providing a range of shopping, housing, and employment opportunities and accommodating the majority of new Foothills residents. The small towns of Deming, Kendall, Maple Falls, and Glacier will continue to thrive without expanding, serving nearby residents and tourists alike, and securing their positions as civic, cultural, and activity centers for the rural community. The small towns will become increasingly complementary as well, working together to meet resident needs. The Foothills will continue to rely on other areas in Whatcom County for those services not provided in the subarea, and transportation and communication linkages to those areas will be improved as a result. In order to build a robust, sustainable local economy, traditional resource-based industry will continue,

supplemented by value-added and cottage industries, and home-based businesses that will provide local employment and a population of diverse, productive residents who live in the Foothills by choice.

CC: Hal Hart, Planning Director
Dennis Rhodes, Assistant Director
Linda Peterson, Planning Division Manager
Pam Brown, Planning Division Clerk/Web Site Posting
Bill Grimes, Studio Cascade

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