

**WHATCOM COUNTY  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**APPLICATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND RELATED ZONING AMENDMENTS**

**Received**

**DEC 08 2010**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Whatcom County PDS**

File #: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES**

COMP PLAN MAP

COMP PLAN TEXT

ZONING MAP

ZONING TEXT

**II. GENERAL INFORMATION**

A. APPLICANT'S NAME: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

MAILING ADDRESS: 5280 Northwest Dr.

Bellingham, WA 98226

E-MAIL ADDRESS: pds@co.whatcom.wa.us

BUSINESS PHONE: 676-6907 HOME PHONE: N/A

B. AGENT'S NAME: Roxanne Michael, AICP

MAILING ADDRESS: Same as above

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS PHONE: Same as above

C. TOPIC OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Periodic Review and Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan:

- Chapter 8 – Resource Lands (Forestry and Mineral Resource sections)
- Chapter 9 - Recreation
- Chapter 10 - Design

**III. FOR MAP AMENDMENTS**

*Chapter 8 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan contains the following maps relating to forestry and mineral resources:*

- *Map # 20 – Designated Forestry Lands*
- *Map # 21 – Designation of Mineral Resource Lands and Classification of Mineral Resource Areas*

*Chapter 9 contains the following maps:*

- *Map # 22 – Plan Recommendations – Whatcom County Park and Open Space Plan*
- *Map # 23 – Shoreline Access Opportunities – Whatcom County Park and Open Space Plan*

*Chapter 10 does not contain any maps.*

*These maps will be updated, as appropriate, to incorporate new information that has become available since the last update.*

- A. TAX PARCEL NUMBER(s): \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
ACREAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
SITE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWNSHIP: \_\_\_\_\_ RANGE: \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/4 SECTION: \_\_\_\_\_  
OWNER(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Additional sheets may be attached if more than one parcel is involved.)
- B. EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:
- C. EXISTING ZONING DESIGNATION:
- D. PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DESIGNATION:
- E. PROPOSED ZONING DESIGNATION:
- F. THE PRESENT USE OF THE PROPERTY IS:
- G. SURROUNDING LAND USE:
- H. SERVICES

Please provide the following information regarding the availability of services.

The site is currently served by sewer \_\_\_\_\_; septic \_\_\_\_\_. (check one)

Sewer purveyor (name): \_\_\_\_\_

The site is currently served by a public water system \_\_\_\_\_; well \_\_\_\_\_. (check one)

Water purveyor (name): \_\_\_\_\_

The site is located on a public road \_\_\_\_\_; private road \_\_\_\_\_. (check one)

Name of road: \_\_\_\_\_.

Fire District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. FOR TEXT AMENDMENTS**

Identify the sections of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance that you are proposing to change and provide the proposed wording (attach additional pages if necessary):

*The following chapters will be reviewed and, if necessary, amendments to these chapters will be formulated in 2011:*

- Chapter 8 – Resource Lands (Forestry and Mineral Resource sections only)
- Chapter 9 – Recreation
- Chapter 10 - Design

*Proposed text changes to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan will be developed in the 2011 amendment process, after reviewing changes to the GMA and other relevant information.*

**V. FOR ALL AMENDMENTS**

A. Why is the amendment needed and being proposed?

*The Growth Management Act, at RCW 36.70A.130, requires Whatcom County to take action to review and, if needed, revise the comprehensive plan and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of the GMA by December 1, 2014.*

*Whatcom County is taking a phased approach, reviewing portions of the comprehensive plan each year between 2011 and 2014. It is anticipated that a portion of chapter 8 (mineral resource and forestry sections), chapter 9 and chapter 10 of the comprehensive plan will be reviewed in the 2011 amendment cycle, with ordinance adoption in early 2012.*

*Furthermore, it is anticipated that a resolution will be approved prior to the December 1, 2014 deadline referring to the ordinances that have been adopted in the phased review process and indicating that the periodic review and update has been completed.*

B. How does the proposed amendment conform to the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

*The Growth Management Act requires counties and cities to periodically review and update their comprehensive plans, to ensure those plans are compliant with the Act. Whatcom County is required to complete this task by December 1, 2014. Review of Chapters 8, 9 and*

*10 of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan is the first step in a multi-year project to complete this update.*

- C. How is the proposed amendment consistent with the County-Wide Planning Policies for Whatcom County?

*County-Wide Planning Policy I-9 states:*

*The County and the cities recognize the need for the protection and utilization of natural resources and resource lands including agricultural, mineral, forestry and fishing. As part of a broad based economy, productive timber, agriculture and fisheries industries should be supported in a sustainable manner.*

*County-Wide Planning Policy H-1 states:*

*Adequate open space is vital to the quality of life and sense of place in Whatcom County. The county, cities, Port of Bellingham, and other appropriate jurisdictions should coordinate protection of linked greenbelts, within and between Urban Growth Areas, parks, and open space to protect wildlife corridors and to enhance recreational opportunities, public access and trail development.*

*County-Wide Planning Policy K-1 states:*

*As part of the comprehensive planning process, the county and the cities shall identify appropriate land for public facilities which meets the needs of the community, such as schools, recreation, transportation and utility corridors, human service facilities, and airport and other port facilities. In order to reduce land use conflicts, policies related to a design component shall be incorporated in the comprehensive plans.*

*These and other County-wide Planning Policies will be considered in the comprehensive plan update.*

- D. How is the proposed amendment consistent with the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan?

*The proposal is to review and, if needed, revise the comprehensive plan for consistency with the GMA. Throughout this process, if amendments are proposed, internal consistency within the comprehensive plan will be considered.*

- E. If within an Urban Growth Area, how is the proposed amendment consistent with interlocal agreements between the County and the City?

*N/A – The proposal would address the resource lands (forestry and mineral lands), recreation and design chapters of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. It would not modify UGA boundaries.*

F. What changed conditions or further studies indicate a need for the amendment?

- *SSB 6611, passed by the State legislature in 2010, requires Counties to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive plans for consistency with the GMA by December 1, 2014. This application is part of a phased review of the comprehensive plan that will result in all chapters being reviewed and, if needed, revised to comply with the GMA by December 2014.*
- *Factual data has also changed since the last comprehensive plan update.*
- *The Whatcom County Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan was approved by the County Council under Resolutions 2008-045 and 2009-026.*

G. How will the public interest be served by the amendment? In determining whether the public interest will be served, factors including but not limited to the following will be considered:

- The anticipated effect upon the rate or distribution of population growth, employment growth, development, and conversion of land as envisioned in the Comprehensive Plan.

*Comment: The comprehensive plan will be evaluated in light of GMA amendments that have been approved by the state legislature since the last periodic review and update in Jan. 2005 (Resolution 2005-006), changed conditions and new information. The proposal will not modify population or employment growth allocations. The Resource Lands Chapter is intended to conserve designated Forestry and Mineral Resource Lands in Whatcom County for utilization by resource industries.*

- The anticipated effect upon the ability of the County and/or other service providers, such as cities, schools, water and/or sewer purveyors, fire districts, and others as applicable, to provide adequate services and public facilities including transportation facilities.

*Comment: The proposal should facilitate County park and recreation planning. The proposal should not have adverse effects on provision of other public services and facilities.*

- Anticipated impact upon designated agricultural, forest and mineral resource lands.

*Comment: The Resource Lands Chapter is intended to conserve designated Forestry and Mineral Resource Lands in Whatcom County. The proposal does not address designated agricultural lands (these lands will be addressed in a later phase of the comprehensive plan update process).*

H. Does the amendment include or facilitate illegal spot zoning?

No.

**VI. SUPPORTING INFORMATION (ATTACH THE FOLLOWING):**

- A. A vicinity map showing property lines, roads, existing and proposed Comprehensive Plan and Zoning designations. (This information is required for map amendments only).

*Comment: Not applicable – this is not a site-specific proposal. The proposal may include text and county-wide map amendments.*

- B. Mailing labels with names and mailing addresses of the owners of all property included within the area proposed for re-designation and within 300 feet (1,000' if the application is for a Mineral Resource Lands zone) of the area proposed for re-designation according to the records of the Whatcom County Assessor. (Mailing labels are required for map amendments only and should be submitted when the fees are paid, after the County Council initiation of the amendment).

*Comment: Not applicable – this is not a site-specific proposal.*

- C. State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Checklist

*Comment: A SEPA checklist will be prepared prior to the Planning Commission hearing.*

**VII. FEES**

- A. The Whatcom County Code 2.160.110 states that:

- (1) Application fees shall not be required for any application submitted by the county council, county council members, county executive, planning commission, and county planning and development services.
- (2) All other applicants shall pay application fees as specified in the Unified Fee Schedule.
- (3) Once an amendment is initiated by resolution of the county council, the applicant shall pay the initiation fee within 15 days. The county council may take official action to waive the initiation fee at the time it approves the initiating resolution if it finds the proposed amendment will clearly benefit the community as a whole and will not be for private financial gain.

- B. Are you requesting that the County Council waive the fees for this application?

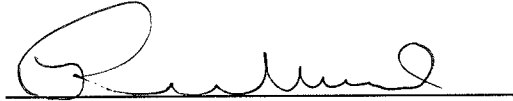
*N/A – Fees are not required under WCC 2.160.110(1).*

- C. If so, please describe how the proposed amendment clearly benefits the community as a whole and will not be for private financial gain.

*N/A*

**PLEASE SUBMIT TWO COPIES OF ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS.**

Signature of Applicant or Agent:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. L. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: December 8, 2010

Long Range Planning\Amendments – CP and Code\PLN-2011