

**From:** Gary Davis  
**To:** Rural Element  
**CC:** Michelle Stiles  
**Date:** 10/31/2008 10:33 AM  
**Subject:** Whatcom County Rural Element Update  
**Attachments:** Whatcom Rural Poster.pdf; press release rural visioning.pdf

Good morning,

As part of the next update to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, Planning and Development Services has begun work on the update to the plan's Rural Element. This process will establish the County's goals and policies for regulating development in the rural areas of Whatcom County, and will include changes to the Comprehensive Plan that are needed in order to comply with the Washington Growth Management Act. To begin the process, Planning and Development Services has scheduled visioning workshops that will be held at three different times and locations throughout the county. These workshops are described in the attached press release and flier. The schedule is:

· Wednesday, November 12: 6:00-8:30 p.m.  
Mount Baker High School Cafeteria, 4936 Deming Rd, Deming

· Thursday, November 13: 9-11:30 a.m.  
Bellingham Public Library (lecture room) 210 Central Ave, Bellingham

· Thursday, November 13: 6:00-8:30 p.m.  
Meridian High School Cafeteria, 194 W. Laurel Rd, Bellingham

Information on the Rural Element Update, as well as the overall Comprehensive Plan update process, can be found on the County website at: [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031)

If you have questions or comments on this process, please contact me or Michelle Stiles at (360) 676-6907 or by email at [mstiles@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:mstiles@co.whatcom.wa.us).

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# Come Join Us!

**What?** Whatcom 2031 Rural Element Workshops  
As part of Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan update, the County will be updating the plan's Rural Element, which will set goals and policies for rural development over the next 20 years.

Residents, business owners, and all interested citizens are invited to the Whatcom County 2031 Rural Element Update Vision Workshops. You will have an opportunity to tell the county about your vision for Whatcom County's rural areas at the workshops below.

**When/Where?** Wednesday, November 12, 6:00pm - 8:30pm  
Mt. Baker High School (Cafeteria)  
4936 Deming Road, Deming, WA

Thursday, November 13, 9:00am - 11:30am  
Bellingham Public Library (Lecture Room)  
210 Central Ave, Bellingham, WA

Thursday, November 13, 6:00pm - 8:30pm  
Meridian High School (Cafeteria)  
194 W. Laurel Road, Bellingham, WA

**More Info** Michelle Stiles, Planner  
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
(360) 676-6907 • pds@co.whatcom.wa.us  
[www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031)

Rural Element  
**WHATCOM 2031**

## **WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

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October 29, 2008

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Rural Element Update: VISION WORKSHOPS**

Whatcom County is updating its Comprehensive Plan in a project called Whatcom 2031. As a part of this update, the County is working to update its policies and regulations for managing growth and development in rural areas. The purpose of this update is to ensure that the Rural Element section of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan accurately reflects the values and expectations of county residents and complies with Washington's Growth Management Act.

**Whatcom County needs your help!** Before considering changes to its Comprehensive Plan, Whatcom County needs feedback from the community to make sure the county's actions are consistent with the community's vision of rural character. Please join the County for a series of workshops on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The following is a schedule of these workshops:

- Wednesday, November 12: 6:00–8:30 p.m.  
Mount Baker High School Cafeteria, 4936 Deming Rd, Deming
- Thursday, November 13: 9-11:30 a.m.  
Bellingham Public Library (lecture room) 210 Central Ave, Bellingham
- Thursday, November 13: 6:00–8:30 p.m.  
Meridian High School Cafeteria, 194 W. Laurel Rd, Bellingham

Participants at these visioning workshops will work to define the vision for the rural area of the County, answering questions like:

- What should the rural areas of Whatcom County look like?
- What lot sizes are appropriate for the rural area?
- What types of land uses are appropriate for the rural areas?
- How should we preserve agricultural land in the rural area?

Participants will work together to answer these and many other questions at the visioning workshops, the first of a series of public involvement activities for the "Rural Element Update."

#### **Please check out the web site!**

The website provides an opportunity to submit comments and learn more about the background of the project. The website can be found at:

[www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031)

A questionnaire based on the exercises at the public workshops will be available on the County's web site for those who cannot attend the meetings.

Your input is needed to craft a plan that meets the needs of residents like you! For further information please contact Michelle Stiles at (360) 676-6907 or by email at [mstiles@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:mstiles@co.whatcom.wa.us).

People with special needs or disabilities who will be attending the meeting are asked to contact Whatcom County Planning and Development Services at least 96 hours in advance so that we may make any needed accommodations.