

Whatcom County 2031 Rural Element Update Questionnaire November 2008

I. In rural areas of Whatcom County (areas not within urban or agricultural areas), would you say that development in the last 10 years has been (please check one):

- Too little About right Too much Don't know/not sure

Comments? _____

II. Rural Values. There are many factors that contribute to the quality of life in rural Whatcom County including some listed below. What factors do you value most?

- Small-scale agriculture Natural environmental features Affordable land/housing
 Forested lands Parks, trails, and open space Clean water and air
 Privacy Large lot development pattern Other: _____

III. Threats to rural values. Which of the following do you believe has the potential to threaten quality of life in rural Whatcom County?

- More residential development More commercial development Heavier traffic
 Environmental degradation Other: _____

IV. Over the next 20 years, identify which rural features are most threatened.

- Small-scale agriculture Natural environmental features Affordable land/housing
 Forested lands Parks, trails, and open space Clean water and air
 Privacy Large lot development pattern Other: _____

V. What lot size would you consider to be "rural?"

- 1 acre or greater 2 acres or greater 5 acres or greater
 10 acres or greater 20 acres or greater 40 acres or greater

VI. In rural portions of counties, the Washington Growth Management Act allows for "limited areas of more intensive rural development" (LAMIRDs). Existing non-rural development like commercial uses or smaller-lot housing would be allowed in those areas. What types of development should be included within those areas?

- High-medium density housing Public services (libraries, community centers)
 Retail centers Industrial (storage, manufacturing)

Automotive services

Small stores

Other: _____

VII. The following is Whatcom County's current vision statement (portions related to rural areas in bold):

*"Whatcom County is a place where urban growth is concentrated in urban areas, where there is a **distinct boundary between urban and rural uses, where agricultural use is encouraged, where resource lands and water resources are protected**, and where land use changes are brought about through incentive programs. **Rural areas are peaceful and quiet with less traffic and congestion than in urban areas.** There is low density development with open spaces allowing for privacy. A sense of community is retained and local control is exercised in land use decisions."*

What do you like most about the vision statement?

What do you like least about the vision statement?

Is there anything that should be added to the vision statement related to rural areas?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire! Please return it to the address below by **December 5, 2008**. For more information, contact: Michelle Stiles, Planner, Whatcom County Planning & Development Services (360)676-6907, pds@co.whatcom.wa.us, www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031

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Place Stamp Here

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