

Rural Lands Task Force recommendation

Summer 2008



The Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan includes a Rural Element. In early 2008, the Board of Clark County Commissioners began a review of rural planning issues by appointing a Rural Lands Task Force. The task force of rural residents is recommending a local definition of rural character and a vision to guide an update to the Rural Element of the growth plan. Below is the recommendation, followed by more information about the project.

For Clark County, rural character is:

- Where the natural landscape predominates over the built environment;
- Where there is small acreage farming and forestry;
- Where provisions have been made to protect the land for future generations;
- Where there are modern economic opportunities to live and work in the rural area, particularly in and around rural centers;
- Where fish and wildlife habitats are valued;
- Where mining is a land use;
- Where urban services are not generally provided; and
- Where natural surface water and recharge areas are protected.

Rural vision statement

Clark County is to be positioned for present and future uses using fair, consistent and creative zoning. Specifically:

- Ease regulations and provide tax incentives for encouraging small scale agriculture and forestry;
- Expand cluster development in agricultural and forest zones;
- Create 5-acre agriculture and forestry homestead zones;
- Expand uses of rural centers to enhance their economic viability and community identity;
- Graduate lot sizes radiating from rural centers;
- Create a Zoning Fairness Board;
- Protect wetland and wildlife habitats;
- Allow and encourage alternative energy projects;
- Facilitate creation of local utility districts in and around rural centers;
- Expand recreational opportunities.

The Rural Lands Task Force was appointed by the Board of Clark County Commissioners in May 2008. The task force members were from unincorporated areas near Amboy, Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Vancouver, Woodland and Yacolt. All are long-time residents of rural Clark County.

Members

Ginger Burr
Sharon Bussler
Dan Dupuis
Russ Grattan
Doug Hagedorn
David Halme
Rocque Merritt
Monty Multanen
Danny Walsh
Byron Woltersdorf
Robert Zumstein

More information

- www.clark.wa.gov/longrangeplan/projects/rural-lands-review.html
- Growth Management Act (Washington State RCW Chapter 36.70A)
- Clark County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 3 Rural Element

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