



Land Use and Rural Element

The Rural Character of Jefferson County is important and must be protected. The purpose of the Land Use and Rural Element is to have goals and policies in place to guide how the land is used and developed in order to protect rural character, foster economic opportunities, conserve natural resources and protect critical areas.

What about this element is most important or stands out most for you and why?

Current Land Use and Rural Goals:

1. Ensure consistency between the Growth Management Act, the County-wide Planning Policy, this Comprehensive Plan, land use and zoning maps, the Unified Development Code, Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board decisions, other related policies and regulations, and all land use, environmental and development decisions and approvals.
2. Establish land use goals and policies in the Land Use Element of this plan that are internally consistent with and reflective of the goals and policies of all other elements of the Plan.
3. Ensure that rural residential development preserves rural character, protects rural community identity, is compatible with surrounding land uses, and minimizes infrastructure needs.
4. Establish and maintain the size and configuration of the county's Rural Village Centers and provide for the development of appropriately scaled commercial uses.
5. Establish and maintain the location and size of the County's Rural Crossroads to provide access to a limited range of non-residential uses.
6. Foster home-based businesses or cottage industries in order to provide economic and employment opportunities outside of Rural Village Centers.
7. Foster economic development in rural areas which is small-scale recreational or tourist-related and that relies on a rural location and setting.
8. Support the continued existence and economic viability of legally established land uses which become nonconforming as a result of Comprehensive Plan adoption.
9. Limit the establishment or expansion of urban-style development and infrastructure to areas designated for urban growth.
10. Identify and designate sufficient land area within the county for industrial uses and economic development.
11. Recognize and contain the following areas and uses of more intensive industrial development within boundaries that may allow for limited areas of infill development.
12. Locate new natural resource-based industries in rural lands and near the resource upon which they are dependent, in accordance with RCW 36.70A.365.
13. Conserve and manage the forest, agriculture, aquaculture, and mineral resources of Jefferson County for sustainable natural resource-based economic activities that are compatible with surrounding land use.
14. Preserve the functions and values of critical environmental areas and protect development from the risks of environmental hazards.
15. Support opportunities to provide a variety of affordable housing types for county residents.
16. Identify and designate lands for both public purposes and essential public facilities.
17. Ensure that transportation is safe, efficient, multi-modal, and based on levels of service that correspond to the land use densities in the Comprehensive Plan.

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18. Preserve rural character and promote rural lifestyle.. Rural character is defined by local rural lifestyle, opportunity to live and work in rural areas, local rural visual landscapes, resource productivity, environmental quality, and significant areas of open space.
19. Ensure that development is accomplished in a manner which protect the long-term habitability, historically significant areas and natural beauty of Jefferson County.
20. Preserve and protect the rural character of the land and the identities of existing rural communities through rural land uses and densities.
21. Encourage residential land use and development intensities that protect the character of rural areas, avoid interference with resource land uses, and minimize impacts upon environmentally sensitive areas.
22. Foster sustainable natural resource-based industry in rural areas through the conservation of forest lands, agricultural lands, mineral lands, and aquaculture lands in order to provide economic and employment opportunities that are consistent with rural character.
23. Maintain the viability of Port Ludlow as Jefferson County’s only existing Master Planned Resort (MPR) authorized under RCW 36.70A.362.
24. Provide for the siting of Master Planned Resorts (MPRs), pursuant to the adoption of development regulations consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.360), in locations that are appropriate from both an economic and environmental perspective.
25. To manage stormwater to improve drainage, control stormwater quality and quantity, protect shellfish beds, fish habitat and other natural resources and to reduce nonpoint sources of pollution.
26. Protect life and property from flood hazards and retain the flood storage capacity of rivers and streams.
27. To improve the base of information on the uses, existing conditions, and vulnerability of surface waters in the county.
28. To protect and enhance the water quality of surface waters in Jefferson County.

Which one of these goals is most important or stands out for you and why?

What would you like to see changed or added and why?

How might we do that?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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