

Schroeder, Kathy



From: GARY LAWHEAD <cglawhead@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 4:56 PM
To: Cnty 2016 Comp Plan
Subject: Consideration of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update

To: Clark County Council & Planning Commission

From: Gary & Chris Lawhead
21414 NW 67th Ave
Ridgefield, WA 98642

Property # 220437.000

Thank you for the opportunity to publicly comment at the May 19th meeting of the Council and Planning Commission.

Chris and I are 3rd generation family residing on 22.81 acres of property, which is part of an original 950 acre farm bought by my Grandfather some 85+ years ago.

My Grandfather donated some acreage along Lake River to the Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge several decades ago. The Roth Unit of the Refuge is named for my Grandfather. Some of my Uncles continued to farm on much of the original property until just a few years ago. There is a considerable presence of Family residing on parcels of the original farm.

My Father testified at the State Legislature in 1996, coordinated by then State Legislator Betty Sue Morris, to advocate for a bill allowing rural landowners to divide property as to allow the children to live on the property, while keeping the vast majority of the land in Agriculture use. He happened to pass away the next day, but he did a great job speaking in a rather intimidating setting. That bill did not make it out of committee.

Chris and I live on a private road (NW 67th Ave), with 14 other residents, some relatives, some not. We are 1 of 4 properties of 20 acres, the remaining 11 properties are 5 acre parcels, and other surrounding properties are also 5 acres, or even less in some cases. All properties are on private wells and septic systems. The main reason we continue to work the property (previously raspberries and now grazing and hay), is to someday get the 4th generation on the land, hopefully before we die.

As you consider future growth planning for the next 20 years, we ask that you consider a certain amount of flexibility for the rural landowners. Allowing for parcels consistent with surrounding parcels would be a great, reasonable start to preparing for the population growth in this County that you are expecting in the next 20 years. Going from Ag 20 to 4 lots of Ag 5 is not a significant loss of agriculture land throughout the County.

Thank you again for your time at the hearing and for reviewing this written material.

Sincerely,

Gary & Chris Lawhead
cglawhead@msn.com

360 887-7304