New growth plan maps pulled from site

Add-ons to controversial Alternative 4 were put on website by mistake

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Two new Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update maps were mistakenly made available to the public Thursday, prompting ire and confusion from county staff who say the maps should not have been made available in the first place.

Acting County Manager Mark McCauley said the council staff erroneously put the maps up online. Usually they would be put in two days after the planning commission, he said.

The maps were removed from the website Friday shortly after noon.

"Posting those maps was a mistake," McCauley said.

Alternative 4, written by Councilor David Madore with some help from mappers in the Geographic Information Systems department, would divide large rural, agriculture and forest lots into smaller lots.

"The most common request was for larger (agriculture) and (forest) parcels to be made smaller if they were surrounded by predominantly smaller parcels," Madore said.

"I have not been responsive to community feedback at an open house at Ridgefield High School on Wednesday. The new maps, called Alternative 4, Option A, included more small agriculture and forest parcels. Madore initially said the new map would be presented at a second open house at Hockinson High School.

"The Alternative 4 proposal was enthusiastically embraced by the vast majority of citizens participating (Wednesday) evening," Madore posted. "Yet, they encouraged us to do better. The most common request was for larger (agriculture) and (forest) parcels to be made smaller if they were surrounded by predominantly smaller parcels."