

**Schroader, Kathy**



**From** NoReply@Clark Wa Gov  
**Sent** Wednesday, September 09, 2015 6 48 PM  
**To** Cnty 2016 Comp Plan  
**Subject** 2016 Comp Plan comments submitted

Following comments were submitted online

Parcel No

Subject New resident input

Comments

After lengthy research and a two-month road trip across the country to find a place to put down roots, my partner and I made the decision to move to the Pacific Northwest. A year ago we landed in Clark County, believing it to fit a majority of our criteria for our new home. Our goal and dream is to purchase 20 or more acres to homestead, sustainably harvest firewood, and potentially small-scale farm. We value local food - grown by us, from our weekly CSA share, and from farmers markets. Thinking the area to be rural and agricultural enough to our liking, we have been disappointed. There certainly are farmers and we have been delighted to meet them and hear their stories and struggles. But we fear for the future because there are also ugly subdivision-type neighborhoods that seem to crop up out of nowhere throughout the county with cheap-looking, slapped up houses with cutesy development names souring the landscape. Not to mention the Mc-mansions on five acre properties, what a waste of space and resources.

We have also been disappointed by the availability of properties we deem suitable. This has changed since we initially looked 2 years ago before relocating. Not only are there hardly any listed properties with the acreage we want, we would be looking at spending a half million dollars for that amount of acreage and some sort of house on it- not what we had in mind!

As we follow the looming update to the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan and all the debate surrounding it, we are further disheartened. Will more ugly housing be allowed to encroach on prime farmland? Will further parcelization mean that our ideal property will never exist? Larger acreages for sale will be even fewer and farther between and likely climbing higher out of our price range as developers look to grab land, subdivide and build. And for who? Walking around the "newly" developed Battle Ground Village, there are very many lots left undeveloped save for a utilities box. It's like a ghost town that never was a town to begin with. While we have been putting down roots in terms of community building and making friends, at this point, we are unsure of our ability and desire to stay in the area. I doubt our story is unique and feel other potential residents will be prohibited from settling here, too.

We understand that cities and counties want growth, it's good for jobs and the local economy. People need places to live. However, growth and urban sprawl should entail well connected communities that are also well planned, with sustainability, longevity, and responsible stewardship of natural resources in mind. We don't support any changes to the existing Comp Plan.

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