2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update

Reference documents

The information and links below contain elements of the current update and background information that will inform the development of the 2016 update policies.

New reports and plans developed since last update

- Growing Healthier Report - The Growing Healthier Report identifies opportunities to improve community health through changes to the built environment.
- Aging Readiness Plan - The Aging Readiness Plan assesses the county's readiness to serve as a home for a growing number of older residents.
- Clark County Economic Development Plan - Prepared for the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CRED) on behalf of Clark County's economic development partners, this strategic plan provides recommendations on how to position Clark County for long-term economic vitality.

Elements of current comprehensive plan

- Current Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Document
- Current and Historical Comprehensive Plan MAPS
- Clark County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
- Coordinated Water System Plan (PDF)
- Buildable Lands Program and reports (Plan monitoring) - The Buildable Lands Program lets local governments coordinate and analyze land supply to be sure they have enough land for development and their Comprehensive Growth Management Plans are doing what they are expected to do.
  - Vacant Buildable Lands Mapped Maps and Data
- Transportation documents - Clark County Public Works is responsible for preparing planning documents, such as the Annual Construction Program and Transportation Improvement Program, as well as a Transportation Element in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Capital Facilities Financial Plan (PDF) - The Capital Facilities Financial Plan outlines how to finance capital facilities identified in the Clark County 20-Year Growth Management Comprehensive Plan. Supporting documentation associated with the plan includes capital facilities plans for school districts, Clark County parks and transportation, and a summary of the vacant lands analysis for each urban growth area.
- Parks Plan - The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan (Parks Plan for short) is a required component of the Clark County Comprehensive Plan. The Parks Plan works with the county's Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan to provide goals, objectives and strategies for park services. The plan can be found at Draft Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan (July 2015).

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Designated Forest Land

Requirements for Designated Forest Land
To request your land be designated as forest land, the following requirements apply:

- The land must be used primarily for growing and harvesting timber.
- The land must consist of a single parcel of 5 or more acres, or multiple, contiguous parcels totaling 5 or more acres.
- Residential home sites are not included in the 5 acre minimum.
- Designated forest land may include land used for incidental uses that are compatible with growing and harvesting timber, but no more than ten percent of the land may be used for such incidental uses.
- If the land has appurtenances necessary for the production, preparation, or sale of the timber products, that land may also be included.
- You must comply with forest practice laws and regulations.
- Application must be made to the county assessor.

Application for Designated Forest Land
You can get an application for Designated Forest Land from your local assessor's office. In some counties, an application fee may also apply. The application requires the following information:

- A legal description of, or assessor's parcel numbers for, all land you want designated as forest land.
- The date or dates of acquisition of the land.
- A brief description of the timber on the land, or if the timber has been harvested, your plan for restocking.
- If one exists, a copy of the timber management plan for the land, prepared by a trained forester or any other person with adequate knowledge of timber management practices.
- If a timber management plan exists, an explanation of the extent to which the management plan has been implemented.
- Whether the land is used for grazing.
- Whether the land has been subdivided or a plat has been filed with respect to the land.
- Whether the land is managed in compliance with the restocking, forest management, fire protection, insect and disease control, and forest debris provisions of Title 76 RCW or any applicable rules under Title 76 RCW.

Washington State encourages sound forestry practices so that present and future generations can enjoy the many benefits they provide. In addition to scenic and recreational spaces, healthy forests provide:

- An enhanced water supply.
- Reduced soil erosion, storm and flood damage.
- Habitat for wild game.
- Employment opportunities.
- Raw materials for products.

As a way to encourage commercial forestry in Washington State, landowners may choose to have their land designated as forest land. This designation often results in a lower assessed value and lower taxes. Specific requirements must be met to qualify for this designation.

This fact sheet provides general information regarding Designated Forest Land. The information is current at the date of publication. Please note subsequent law changes may supersede or invalidate some of this information.