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Pend Oreille County

WHITE BLUFFS CONSULTING

Comprehensive Plan

Prepared for Pend Oreille County

May 2020
Pend Oreille County

Comprehensive Plan

Prepared for
Pend Oreille County
418 S Scott Ave
Newport, WA 99156

Prepared by
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Preface

The Constitution of the State of Washington declares that a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is essential to the security of individual right and the perpetuation of free government, and that the provisions of this Constitution are mandatory, unless by express words they are declared to be otherwise. The people of Pend Oreille County establish this Comprehensive Plan in that spirit and embrace activities which are consistent with and promote active stewardship of our customs, culture, economic viability, social stability and quality of life. Planning is how we develop a blueprint for our path into the future. It's our responsibility to ensure that future generations are provided with the means, opportunity, freedom and liberty to provide for themselves and their future generations. We are the stewards of our children's future.

Statement of Values: Why We Live Here

The customs and culture of Pend Oreille County are woven with the threads of an independent people, who have extracted their livelihoods from the natural resources of the area for the past one hundred years or more. The peace and tranquility of a sparsely populated area, affordable land, reasonable taxes, and the economic and lifestyle prospects of timber, farming, ranching, and mining have attracted hard-working people who value the self-sufficiency gained by living and working on the land.

Pend Oreille County residents value the rare opportunity of raising our families in an affordable rural environment, with friendly neighbors; where people still wave as they drive by and shopkeepers know us by name; where the lifestyle is still relaxed; where lifestyle and livelihood are connected to

the land; where problems can be solved on a local level; and where the ethic of hard work brings the highest respect. We appreciate the distinct changes in the four seasons and are undaunted by the hardships the seasons may bring. We realize the benefits of the open spaces maintained by agriculture and the timber industry, and value the quality of life that results from our close proximity to the County's mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. We appreciate the clean water in the area's streams, rivers, and lakes, the clear air quality, and the abundant wildlife habitat.

As our population increases, we want to ensure that new development is compatible with the surrounding uses, sensitive to the surrounding natural areas, and retains the rural character of the community. County residents want to see their land use governed by the goals and principles outlined in the elements of this plan, and the implementing local regulations that will protect their property rights, and ensure continued use of lands for timber production, ranching, farming, and mining. We recognize that these rights exist provided that they do not jeopardize the health and safety of the residents of Pend Oreille County and with these rights come the responsibilities of citizenship, stewardship, and being a good neighbor. The people in our community strive to be good stewards of our own lands, to be active members of our community, and share responsibility for the community's well-being.

The people of Pend Oreille County have a clear vision of the kind of community we wish to live in, now and in the future. The purpose of this plan is to translate that vision and our values into goals and policies to guide future growth and development, to protect private property rights, preserve the quality of the natural environment and rural lifestyle that we enjoy, strengthen our local economy, and to provide direction for the allocation of our limited financial resources.

1 Mission

For the future of Pend Oreille County our mission is to be mindful of the following expectations:

- The next generation will still hold dear the freedoms and liberties that we do.
- The natural resources in the County will be well managed, healthy, productive, and provide products for our economic viability while maintaining our recreational opportunities.
- The current and future residents are served by an efficient and cost-effective government.
- The local economy is stable, diverse, and nimble enough to adapt to necessary change.
- The communities within the County are safe, clean, well thought out, and mindful of our heritage.

1.1 Comprehensive Plan Development

This Comprehensive Plan has been developed to provide a framework of objectives that will help guide the development of regulations that will enhance the opportunity to realize our vision. It is intended to be a guide for identifying and respecting the customs, culture, economic viability, social stability and quality of life found in this area and applying those values to growth and development as they occur in the County.

This Plan incorporates the efforts of many County residents from various walks of life and economic sectors. It embodies the local traditions, values and visions that each of those residents brought to the effort.

Pend Oreille County has long been respectful of the constitutional concept of private property rights. It has been the custom and culture of citizens of the area to hold their private property rights free from intermeddling by outside government and interest groups, and to respect the private property rights of their neighbors.

This plan has been adopted as authorized and required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The decision to participate in the GMA was formalized by County Resolution #90-113 on December 28, 1990. The GMA is a complex piece of legislation that was adopted by the State Legislature in an effort to protect natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas from the adverse effects of suburban sprawl by directing new growth and development to urban areas where necessary public services exist or can reasonably be provided. The fourteen goals of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.020) are to be given equal consideration and include:

- **Urban Growth.** Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner
- **Reduce Sprawl.** Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development
- **Transportation.** Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans
- **Housing.** Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock
- **Economic Development.** Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities;
- **Property Rights.** Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions
- **Permits**. Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability
- **Natural Resource Industries**. Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses

- **Open Space and Recreation.** Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities
- **Environment**. Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water
- **Citizen Participation and Coordination.** Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts
- **Public Facilities and Services.** Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards
- **Historic Preservation**. Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance
- **Shoreline Master Plans**. The shorelines of the State are among the most valuable and fragile of its natural resources and that there is great concern throughout the State relating to their utilization, protection, restoration and preservation. It is policy to provide for the management of the shorelines by planning for and fostering all reasonable and appropriate uses

1.2 Pend Oreille County Planning Principles

In addition to the Goals of the Washington State Growth Management Act, this Comprehensive Plan was developed in accordance with the following locally determined planning principles:

- Maintain natural resource assets and preserve the rural character of the area
- Regulations should be kept to a minimum to the greatest extent possible to promote compatible and responsible land uses
- New developments should be compatible with the rural character of our community, while providing adequate facilities
- Planning in Pend Oreille County should be a partnership that should consist of landowners, local, tribal, state, and federal agencies working together to achieve common goals
- The Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners should support and encourage partnerships that contribute to the coordination and conservation of natural resources

1.3 Goal and Policy Development

The statement of values, and goals and policy statements in this plan are based on the efforts of dozens of Pend Oreille County citizens. The “general guiding principles” that have been presented are an attempt to capture the spirit of their work in just a few words. Those principles emphasize the

difficult balance the people of the county are trying to strike between proactively managing growth to sustain a healthy rural environment and protecting individual property rights. The guiding principles also reflect the local desire for an effective voice in the management of land and water resources by state and federal agencies.

Goals and Policies are presented in each "element" or chapter of this plan. Each element contains:

- A brief overview, which establishes the context and factual background for that particular element or chapter
- Growth Management Act Requirements
- One or more goals
- One or more specific policies designed to implement the goals
- Background information that describes the existing conditions on which the Goals and Policies are based

1.4 Planning Is an Ongoing Effort

Remaining consistent with the goals and policies in the plan and accomplishing the identified actions will require a sustained effort. Public participation will need to continue during implementation, and should include a representative cross-section of county residents, with active participation by county officials. This includes not only the adoption of regulations and standards necessary to implement the plan, but also in monitoring progress to achieve the desired results. Future revisions should be consistent with the Statement of Values and should honor the commitment of the local residents who helped create this plan.

Implementing the goals and policies adopted in this plan can give the people of Pend Oreille County tools to help channel growth into a pattern that is consistent with their values and help them assert local interests in public lands management. Implementation should include continuing the process of community learning and discussion by which the plan was developed.

1.5 Public Participation Goals

Public Participation Goal #1: Encourage all residents to participate in a continuing citizen-driven planning process.

1.6 Public Participation Plan

In support of the Public Involvement Goal, for the Comprehensive Plan update, the County will prepare a tailored public participation plan that guides the public participation activities for each update. The PPP for this plan is provided in Appendix A.

2 Land Use Element

2.1 Overview

Land and the various uses of the land is an elemental feature of our society. Environmentally Sensitive areas should remain open for natural, aesthetic, and recreational uses, while some lands could be developed and used in a more intensive manner. How land is used and regarded is an important part of Pend Oreille County's character.

Once land is developed, the taxpaying public generally assumes an ongoing financial responsibility to provide services. Since financial resources are limited, careful consideration of the effects of our land use decisions will help to ensure the long term viability of the land, preserve the unique qualities of the County, focus on wise public and private investments, and provide greater predictability to property owners.

The purpose of this Land Use element is to help Pend Oreille County respond to land use changes while maintaining and preserving its rural character and way of life. Each of the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan is interrelated with the Land Use Element. All the Comprehensive Plan elements work together in a consistent and coordinated manner to help provide for orderly growth. The goals and policies in this Land Use element promote careful and well-informed use of lands within the County and provide guidance regarding land use designations, urban growth areas, open space preservation, natural resource protection, wildlife migration corridor preservation, fish and wildlife habitat protection, wetland protection, and overall protection of the natural features in the County. These land use goals and policies will help to protect and conserve unique, fragile, irreplaceable, and

valuable elements of the natural environment in the County for the enjoyment of present and future generations. This element is organized by first identifying the land use goals and objectives policies according to: general land use, urban lands, rural lands, natural resource lands, and Environmentally Sensitive areas. Following the goals and objectives policies is an overview of the existing land use conditions, including land use patterns, land use inventory and distribution, and future land use. The existing conditions analysis is also broken down according to general land use, urban lands, rural lands, natural resource lands, and Environmentally Sensitive areas.

Definitions for applicable terminology used in this section and throughout the plan are provided in Appendix B.

2.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) at RCW 36.70A.070 includes specific requirements for the Land Use Element of a Comprehensive Plan. A land use element should include the following:

- Distribution of general location and extent of the uses of land, where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces, general aviation airports, public utilities, public facilities, education facilities, and other land uses;
- Population densities, building intensities, and estimates of future population growth;
- Provide for the protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies; and
- Where applicable, the land use element will include consideration of drainage, flooding, and storm water run-off in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state.

Specific requirements for rural lands and natural resource lands are identified below.

2.2.1 Rural Lands

The Growth Management Act (GMA) in RCW 36.70A.070 (5) states: "Counties shall include a rural element including lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest, or mineral resources." Rural elements typically include the following basic components:

- Definition and protection of rural character
- Defining and planning for rural services
- Developing land use designations

The GMA focuses attention on how these rural, non-urban, non-resource lands, may be developed and on their relationship to resource lands. According to the Growth Management Act, rural character is defined as:

"The patterns of land use and development established by a county in the rural element of its comprehensive plan:

- In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment
- That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based economies, and opportunities to both live and work in rural areas
- That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found in rural areas and communities
- That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat
- That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development
- That generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services
- That are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge areas."

2.2.2 Natural Resource Lands

One of the key planning goals of the Growth Management Act is to "maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses. The Growth Management Act further states that:

> ". . .use of lands adjacent to agricultural, forest, or mineral resource land shall not interfere with the continued use, in the accustomed manner and in accordance with best management practices, of these designated lands for the production of food, agricultural products, or timber, or for the extraction of minerals." (RCW 36.70A.060 (1))

Each County planning under the Growth Management Act shall designate where appropriate:

- Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products
- Forest lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber

- Mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals
- Environmentally Sensitive (Critical) Areas. (RCW 36.70A.170)

As part of the update process, it was determined that a county-wide review of resource lands be completed, as the designated lands had not been reviewed and updated for several years. The review included a more complete set of designation factors. Results of the review are summarized in Section 2.5.7, and a technical memorandum is included in Appendix C.

2.3 Land Use Goals

The land use goals and policies included in this section were prepared consistent with the Statement of Values and General Planning Principles provided in the Preamble and Section 1 of the plan.

Land Use Goal # 1: Support new growth and development that is consistent with the demands of County residents and that support future growth and economic vitality while maintaining the rural character of Pend Oreille County.

Land Use Goal # 2: Maintain the rural character of Pend Oreille County, including: forest lands, agricultural lands, mining and natural resource-based industries, home-based businesses, and recreational properties.

Land Use Goal # 3: Protect the traditional rural ways of making a living farming and ranching, timber harvesting, and mining-from conflict with rural residential development.

Land Use Goal # 4: Encourage urban type development to be concentrated in urban growth areas or more densely populated areas where existing facilities either have adequate capacity or where appropriate levels of service can be reasonably be provided.

Land Use Goal #5: Retain sufficient flexibility in plans and regulations in order to support a wide range of economic development opportunities throughout the County.

Land Use Goal #6: Support new development that is consistent with a realistic assessment of the availability of water and that does not adversely affect the rights of existing water users.

Land Use Goal # 7: Establish and maintain regulations that respect private property rights and that do not unduly affect the private use and enjoyment of one's property.

Land Use Goal # 8: Protect environmentally sensitive areas to maintain ecological functions and values and reduce cumulative adverse environmental impacts.

Land Use Goal # 9: Protect groundwater recharge areas and prevent the contamination of vulnerable groundwater resources to ensure water quality and quantity for public and private uses and Environmentally Sensitive area function.

2.4 Land Use Policies

In support of the Land Use Goals, Pend Oreille County will establish the following Land Use Policies:

2.4.1 General Land Use Policies

General Land Use Policy # 1: Pend Oreille County should require that necessary public facilities (e.g., streets, water, sewer, and power) be in place, or be put in place, to serve new development.

General Land Use Policy # 2: Pend Oreille County, in consultation with the incorporated cities and towns, should designate and periodically review Urban Growth Areas, and update boundaries as appropriate.

General Land Use Policy #3: The Pend Oreille County Development Code will include provisions to guide the designation of land uses inside the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) of the County and establish a procedure for the review and approval of annexations in the approved Urban Growth Areas (see County-wide Planning Policies).

Land Use Policy #4: Pend Oreille County should engage in a collaborative process with the cities and towns to establish criteria for the siting of major industrial developments (MIDs).

General Land Use Policy #5: Pend Oreille County will establish appropriate standards to prevent runoff and erosion from new developments. The County may also encourage community efforts to control runoff from existing developments.

General Land Use Policy #6: Pend Oreille County should support the preservation of the Newport to Metaline Falls railroad corridor.

General Land Use Policy #7: Pend Oreille County should identify and preserve existing railroad crossings and promote the shared use of crossings in an effort to minimize new crossings.

Intent: The railroad is an important community economic development asset that must be preserved. However, the County does not want to limit other development opportunities because of limited access across the tracks. By preserving and making more effective use of existing crossings and promoting the shared use of crossings, both objectives can be met.

General Land Use Policy #8: Pend Oreille County should, when updating its development regulations, give special consideration to:

a. RV Park standards

b. Floodplain standards
c. Planned Unit Development standards
d. Shoreline Master Plan
e. Environmentally Sensitive Area Ordinance

Land Use Policy #9: Pend Oreille County should actively involve the local Fire District's and other public service providers in both long-range and current planning activities.

2.4.2 Rural Land Use Policies

Rural Land Use Policy#1: Pend Oreille County will establish a Future Land Use Map and Zoning Map consistent with the land use designations in the attached Rural Lands Density Criteria Matrix.

Rural Land Use Policy#2: The Pend Oreille County Development Code will permit residential development, forestry, agricultural, mining, and other industrial activities in all rural areas of the County in accordance with the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan. Provided that:

a. New industrial or mining uses will be permitted as Conditional Uses or consistent with Zoning Classifications.

Rural Land Use Policy#3: Pend Oreille County will encourage land use compatibility by considering performance standards that address noise, traffic generation, illumination, solid waste, operating hours, signs, and similar aspects of new development.

Rural Land Use Policy#4: Pend Oreille County should allow cluster development techniques in order to retain the rural character of the rural lands and to allow for a variety of residential densities.

Rural Land Use Policy#5: The Pend Oreille County Development Code will specify performance standards that eliminate or mitigate the potentially adverse effects of industrial or commercial uses on neighboring lands. The code will also require that new industrial and commercial uses be separated from residential areas by adequate buffers.

Rural Land Use Policy#6: Pend Oreille County should prepare revisions to County regulations to create special overlay districts or other techniques to guide infill and redevelopment of the densely populated lakeshores.

Rural Land Use Policy#7: Pend Oreille County should review and evaluate standards for new large-scale resorts and large-scale developments in accordance with the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan.

Rural Land Use Policy #8: Pend Oreille County should permit small-scale commercial uses including, but not limited to; neighborhood stores, cafes, taverns, and resorts in rural areas on non-designated Natural Resource Lands, provided that:

a. Performance standards that address noise, light and glare, solid waste handling, odors, traffic and similar sources of conflict are established that avoid, minimize, landscape buffers or mitigate potential nuisances that could affect other properties; and
b. Standards are established that require adequate off-road parking and safe access to public roads, with the number of points of access to arterial roads being minimized.
c. Coordinate with the Public Works Road Department and Washington State Department of Transportation when a proposed use will increase traffic flow and or turning movements on a County road or State highway.

Rural Land Use Policy #9: Pend Oreille County will adopt zoning classifications to direct commercial uses to more populated areas of the County where necessary services exist to accommodate them.

Rural Land Use Policy #10: Pend Oreille County may, in consultation with affected property owners, prepare sub-area plans to identify properties suitable for more intensive levels of residential development and/or rural scale commercial uses, including those uses identified in Rural Land Use Policy #8. Potential sub-areas may include:

a. Highway 2 Corridor from the intersection with Highway 211 to the Newport UGA;
b. Highway 2 Corridor from the intersection with Highway 211 to the Spokane County line;
c. Sacheen Lake (more intensive residential densities only);
d. Diamond Lake;
e. Highway 211 Corridor from Deer Valley Road to Fertile Valley Road;
f. LeClerc Road Corridor from the Pend Oreille River Bridge at Usk south to the Idaho State line;
g. Highway 20 Corridor from the Cusick UGA south to the intersection with Highway 211;
h. Highway 20 Corridor from Outpost to Blueslide; and
i. Highway 20 and Highway 31 intersection (Tiger).

Rural Land Use Policy #11: Home based businesses and isolated cottage industries are a traditional form of economic development in rural communities and may be permitted by Pend Oreille County as an accessory use to any residence.

Rural Land Use Policy #12: The County will establish a process to monitor and evaluate, on a yearly basis, the number of requests for more intensive land use designations and will, as a part of the annual review cycle, prepare additional criteria to further ensure that a mix of densities is maintained and that Rural and designated Natural Resource Lands are protected.

2.4.3 Natural Resource Policies

Natural Resource Policy #1: Pend Oreille County should encourage land management techniques that will conserve and protect designated natural resource lands and Environmentally Sensitive areas.

Natural Resource Policy #2: Pend Oreille County should periodically review and update its resource lands regulations, Environmentally Sensitive areas ordinance, and Shorelines Master Program to maintain consistency with the provisions of this comprehensive plan and Washington State Law as appropriate.

Natural Resource Policy #3: The Pend Oreille County Development Code should require Project Sponsors to provide buffers between residential development and agricultural and timber lands, and even larger buffers between residential development and mining, industrial, and commercial uses.

Natural Resource Policy #4: Pend Oreille County should use established guidelines to classify agriculture, forest, mineral lands, and Environmentally Sensitive areas, and to guide the evaluation of its Environmentally Sensitive areas designations and related development regulations.

Natural Resource Policy #5: Pend Oreille County should support and encourage the maintenance of agricultural lands in open space.

Natural Resource Policy #6: Pend Oreille County should include a notice within the dedicatory language of each new subdivision which states that the use of any residential lot therein will not interfere with any nearby, lawful natural resource operation.

Natural Resource Objective Policy #7: Pend Oreille County will require that all plats, short plats, development permits, and building permits issued for development activities on, or within five hundred feet of, lands designated as agricultural lands, open range lands, forest lands, or mineral resource lands, contain a notice that the subject property is within or near designated agricultural lands, open range lands, forest lands, or mineral resource lands on which a variety of commercial activities may occur that are not compatible with residential development.

Natural Resource Policy #8: The Pend Oreille County Development Code should encourage developers to prepare and implement a site-specific weed control plan, assisted by the Pend Oreille County Weed Board.

2.4.4 Environmentally Sensitive Area Policies

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #1: Pend Oreille County will maintain regulations to protect environmentally sensitive areas (legally defined in RCW 36.70A.170 as "Critical Areas") utilizing Best Available Science.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #2: Pend Oreille County will evaluate its Environmentally Sensitive areas designations and related development regulations as part of future comprehensive updates to the Comprehensive Plan, and may alter such designations and regulations to ensure consistency.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #3: For each Environmentally Sensitive area, Pend Oreille County will define the classification system and prepare development regulations that govern changes in land uses and new activities.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #4: In circumstances where Environmentally Sensitive areas are not mapped, Pend Oreille County will establish performance standards or definitions, so these Environmentally Sensitive areas are identified during the processing of a permit or development authorization.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #5: The Pend Oreille County Development Code will include provisions to require Project Sponsors to document water availability, and to insure that the proposed method of sewage disposal will not pollute ground or surface water.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #6: Pend Oreille County will establish standards so that the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and generation of hazardous wastes do not adversely affect water and air quality.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #7: Pend Oreille County will incorporate the recommendations of the approved WRIA 55 and WRIA 62 watershed plans into the County Development Codes and permit review procedures.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #8: The Pend Oreille County Development Code will require all proposed developments to show that local and state health department approval has been obtained for the proposed sewage disposal system.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #9: Pend Oreille County will require developments that are expected to use hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes to:

a. Demonstrate that all necessary state and federal approvals have been obtained, or are being actively sought; and
b. Comply with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (42 USC 1101-11050), which provide emergency services personnel with essential information about the kind and quantities of materials they may encounter on the site.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #10: Pend Oreille County may require that development in or adjoining designated priority habitat area, prepare and implement a habitat plan.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #11: Pend Oreille County shall require that effective buffers are maintained between all development and wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams consistent with the County's Environmentally Sensitive areas code and SMP.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #12: Pend Oreille County will direct new development, with the exception of water-dependent, away from areas that are subject to flooding.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #13: Reduce light pollution through lighting standards that allows for the minimum required lighting for applicable conditions, that makes more stars visible at night, reduces sky glow, and improves that quality of life for humans and wildlife.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #14: The Pend Oreille County Development Code may require that future development include elements of undisturbed or restored shoreline corridor.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #15: The type and density of new development permitted along the county's lakes and streams should be compatible with high water quality and other river and lakeshore riparian zone policies, as provided in the County's Shoreline Master Program.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #16: Pend Oreille County will work with other agencies to provide public access to lakes, rivers, and streams where such access is needed.

Environmentally Sensitive Area Policy #17: Pend Oreille County should seek funding for the acquisition and development of points of access to those lakes, rivers, and streams where more public access is needed.

2.4.5 Shoreline Master Program Goals and Policies

The most recent County SMP goals and policies, approved in 2015 (or subsequent updates), are adopted into this plan by reference.

2.5 Land Use Existing Conditions

2.5.1 Population Statistics and Projections

2.5.1.1 Existing Population

According to the 2010 Census, the total population in Pend Oreille County is 13,001 persons. This is an increase of 1,269 persons, or a 10% population increase from the 2000 population of 11,732 persons. Table 2-1 presents an overview of population in the County.

The Office of Financial Management (OFM) prepares population estimates for each city and county to adjust the Census data to present day conditions. According to OFM, the County's population in 2020 is estimated at 13,919 persons

Table 2-1
Population Data-Pend Oreille County

Municipality	2000 Population	2010 Population[1]	% Change 2000-2010	2017 Population Estimate[2]	% Change 2010-2017
Pend Oreille County Total	11,732	13,001	10.8%	13,370	2.8%
Unincorporated	8,735	9,810	12%	10,140	3.4%
Incorporated Cities	2,997	3,191	6%	3,230	1.2%
Cusick	212	207	-2%	205	-1.0%
Ione	479	447	-7%	445	-0.4%
Metaline	162	173	7%	170	-1.7%
Metaline Falls	210	223	6%	240	7.6%
Newport	1,691	1,921	13.6%	2,170	13.0%

1. Census 2000
2. Office of Financial Management, April 1, 2017 Population Estimate.

Population in the County has become increasingly concentrated in the area south of Cusick, as evidenced by the redrawing of the County Commissioner District #l after the 2000 Census. The three commissioner districts are configured to each contain an equal population base. After the 2000 Census, Commissioner District boundaries were modified such that Commissioner District #3 extends further south and Commissioner Districts #2 and #1 are now smaller in area, representing the part of the County containing most of the privately owned rural residential land (not designated as Agricultural Open Space or Assessor Timber).

2.5.1.2 Population Density

Pend Oreille County is approximately 1,400 square miles in size. The population density in the County is 8.4 persons per square mile, or an average of 1 person for every 76 acres of land (*Office of Financial Management).*

2.5.1.3 Projected Population

Projected population growth is a principal determinant in estimating future land use needs. The Office of Financial Management has prepared high, medium, and low population projections for the County through the year 2039. Table 2-2 depicts the range in population projected for the County between 2019 and 2039.

Table 2-2
Population Projections-Pend Oreille County

Population Projections	2018 Projected Population[1]	2019 Projected Population	2039 Projected Population[1]
Low	13,115	12,860	12,302
Medium	13,565	13,746	14,641
High	14,023	14,677	18,647

1. Source: Office of Financial Management Population Projections, 2017. (Note: These population projections were developed in 2017. As shown, the 2018 low population projection for Pend Oreille County is lower than the estimated population of 13,540 persons in 2018).

The County has determined that a realistic growth rate is in the medium range (averaging .3% population growth annually), taking into account the history of population growth, recent trends, and available land. Under this scenario, the County's 2019 population of 13,746 would expand to 14,641by 2039 (Office of Financial Management). This represents a population increase of 895 persons between 2019-2039 or roughly 45 persons or 19 households per year[1]. Households in Pend Oreille County average 2.35 persons per household.

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Additionally, Pend Oreille County is experiencing age demographics changes. As baby boomers age in place and the region attracts retirees, the number of residents age 60 and older is projected to grow to 5,953 in 2030. The number of residents age 75 and older is expected to 3,172 in 2040. The percent of the overall county population will reach a high of 41% of county residents age 60 and older in 2030, and 21% of county residents age 75 and older in 2040[2].

2.5.1.4 Urban Lands Population-Existing and Projected

According to the Office of Financial Management, the estimated 2018 population within incorporated areas is 3,230 persons, accounting for roughly 24% of the County's existing population. Population estimates range from 170 people in the town of Metaline to 2,170 in the City of Newport. Table 2-3 shows Pend Oreille County's five incorporated areas' existing and projected populations.

Table 2-3
Population in Pend Oreille Urban Areas

Municipality	2010 Population	2018 Population	% Change 2010-2018	% of 2018 Total Population	Projected Population 2029[1]	Projected Population 2039	% of the Total Projected Population
Unincorporated County	9,810	10,310	5.1	76.00%	11,184	11,280	77.23
Cusick	207	205	-1	1.51	230	245	1.37

[1] https://www.zip-codes.com/county/wa-pend-oreille.asp accessed in July 2019.
[2] https://pendoreilleco.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/ALTCEW-Pend-Oreille-County1.pdf

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Ione	447	445	0.4	3.28	440	440	3.00
Metaline	173	170	-1.7	1.25	159	162	1.11
Metaline Falls	238	240	0.8	1.77	243	243	1.68
Newport	2,126	2,170	2.1	16	2,213	2,270	15.62
Total	13,001	13,565	4.34	100%	14,469	14,640	100

[1]Projected Population is derived from OFM 2017 estimates and each municipality's historic growth.

Projected populations are derived from OFM 2017 estimates and each municipality's historic growth through the year 2039. If the population growth assumptions from these Comprehensive Plans remain valid, it is estimated that a total of 3,334 persons will live in the incorporated areas by 2039, for a net increase of 104 persons over current conditions. This would constitute about 23 percent of the County's population living in urban growth areas.

Current trends indicate a slower rate of growth in incorporated areas. For example, the towns of Cusick, Ione and Metaline have actually experienced a net loss of population between 2010 and 2018. However, to determine whether adequate land area is available to accommodate future growth, the projected 2039 population for cities and towns is generally consistent with OFM's intermediate growth projections for the County.

2.5.2 Existing Land Use Patterns

The land use pattern in Pend Oreille County is typical of the rural areas of the Northern Rocky Mountains and Columbia Forest Province. Mountains cloaked in a coniferous forest surround a river valley. Most of the forestland is in public ownership as national forests. Small towns that have, or had, resource-based economies are situated along the Pend Oreille River valley with hay meadows and pastures filling the level land in between those towns. There are second-home and retirement-home subdivisions along the river and lakeshores, and a scattering of large-lot subdivisions in the parts of the County nearest the cities and towns. The current land use map, Figure XX, Appendix D, shows the existing land use pattern, reflecting the interaction of people and the land in Pend Oreille County.

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This land use pattern is much like that found a decade ago or more in many of the rapidly growing rural communities in the West. While this similarity of land use patterns does not guarantee that Pend Oreille County will experience the same dynamics of population growth and land development, the County and its residents must be prepared to proactively manage land use change, or watch the rural landscape they cherish be gradually transformed into a suburban landscape.

2.5.3 Land Use Inventory and Distribution-General

Pend Oreille County contains approximately 896,000 acres of land, or 1,400 square miles Roughly 65% is publicly owned and approximately 35% is held in private ownership. Tables 2.4 and 2.5

summarizes land ownership in Pend Oreille County according to six general land ownership and/or use categories: Federal, State, Tribal, County, Incorporated Areas and Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), and private land.

Table 2-4
Land Ownership

Land Ownership Type	Number of Acres	% of Total Acres
Private	316,131	35%
Public	587,876	65%
Tribe	6,210	<1%
Total	**34,251**	**100%**

Data source: White Bluffs Consulting 2018, Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan, October 2018.

Table 2-5
Estimated Pend Oreille County Land Ownership, Use, and Area

Land Ownership, Use, and/or Designation	Number of Acres	% of Total Acres
Federal	**540,757**	**59.26**
U.S. Forest Service	536,740	58.82
Bureau of Land Management	1,661	0.18
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1,541	0.17
U.S. Department of Energy	482	0.05
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	290	0.03
Bonneville Power Administration	43	0.01
State of Washington	**21,705**	**2.38**
County	**7,073**	**0.78**
Pend Oreille County	4,214	0.46
Public Utility District (estimate)	2,326	0.25
Port of Pend Oreille (parcels only)	80	0.01
School, Fire and Other Districts	453	.05
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	**6,693**	**0.73**
Incorporated Cities and Towns [incorporated areas + UGA]	**3,725**	**0.41**
Cusick UGA [317 + 4535]	852	0.09
Ione UGA [370 + 513]	883	0.10
Metaline (no UGA)	194	0.02
Metaline Falls UGA [139 + 183]	322	0.04
Newport UGA [932 + 532]	1,474	0.16

Land Ownership, Use, and/or Designation	Number of Acres	% of Total Acres
Other Public: City of Seattle	**830**	**0.09**
Private	**313,576**	**34.37**
Agricultural Open Space	21,015	2.30
Designated Timber	218,611	23.96
Improved Parcels This figure incl. incorporated areas	81,495	8.93
Unimproved Parcels (This figure includes incorporated areas)	232,080	25.43
Right of way, railroads, and waterbodies Approx. 1,8002 **TOTAL [1,425 sq. mi.]**	**912,480**	**100%**

Source: Pend Oreille County GIS 2020

2.5.3.1 Public Lands

Public lands are owned and managed by public entities such as the County, State, Federal, and Tribal governments. Public ownership accounts for roughly 65% (or 580,000 acres) of the land in the County, including over 500,000 acres in federal lands. U.S. Forest Service land and wilderness areas occupy much of the County north of Newport, both east and west of the Pend Oreille River valley. State land equals approximately 35,000 acres, primarily managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife. Roughly 6,000 acres belong to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, primarily located along the Pend Oreille River near Usk and Cusick. The County, Public Utility District #1, and Port of Pend Oreille manage roughly 10,000 acres of land. Some of these lands are identified as parcels in the County Assessor's records, but without parcel numbers.

2.5.3.2 Urban Areas

Incorporated cities and towns, including their interim Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) comprise less than 1% of the land area in the County. (The total area of the County's five cities and towns, including their interim Urban Growth Areas (UGA's) totals approximately 5,159 acres, of which 1,838 acres are within incorporated cities and towns and 3,321 acres are located within the UGA's. The interim UGA's are the areas adjacent to the cities and towns that have been designated as the land where future urban growth will take place. These interim UGA's were adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in June 1994. Table 2-4 provides a breakdown of land area for each of the cities and towns. The towns of Metaline and Metaline Falls did not designate any additional land beyond their present corporate boundaries. The City of Newport revised its interim UGA in 2000 as part of its comprehensive plan update. In 2005, upon adoption of the County Comprehensive Plan, the interim UGA's were made permanent designations, subject to future refinements through future

Comprehensive Plan updates by each city and town and the County. Urban Areas are described in greater detail in Section 2.5.4.

2.5.3.3 Private Property

Within unincorporated Pend Oreille County, privately owned property comprises roughly 310,000 acres of land or approximately 35% of the total land area in the County. Of privately owned land, almost 72% is Assessor Designated Timber land. Approximately 9% of the private land is held in the Agricultural Open Space program, and just over 5% is platted in short or long subdivisions. Approximately 14% of the private land consists of rural lands-land outside the Urban Growth Areas; outside designated agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands, and not already platted. Privately owned land is concentrated in the very south part of the County, in the Cusick Flats area, and north along the Pend Oreille River, with some private checkerboard timber holdings in the central part of the County east of the river. Subdivided land is concentrated along the Pend Oreille River, in the Highway 2 corridor from the Highway 211 junction to Newport, along the south half of the Highway 211 corridor, and around Sacheen and Diamond Lakes. Smaller private Assessor designated timber holdings abound in the southeast part of the County east of Highway 211 south of Highway 20. Industrial activity is centered near the junction of Highways 20 and 211, and near Metaline Falls.

2.5.3.4 Recent Development Trends

Growth by census tract areas were evaluated for the period between 2010/2011 and 2019, as provided in Figure XX, Appendix D. During this time population grew by an estimated 833 persons and 438 new building permits were issued. While growth occurred throughout the entire County, most of the growth during this time period occurred in the southern part of the County, from Cusick to the Spokane County border.

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2.5.4 Urban Lands

2.5.4.1 Overview

One of the Growth Management Act's primary planning goals is to "encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner" (RCW 36.70A.020). The purpose of this Urban Lands section is to address the land within the Urban Growth Areas of Pend Oreille County's five incorporated areas, Cusick, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls, and Newport.

Urban lands are generally characterized by growth patterns that have made or may result in an intensive use of land for buildings, structures, and impervious surfaces. Concentration of urban lands is desirable so that other uses, such as the production of timber, hay, or food crops, which are incompatible with urban growth patterns, can be maintained and encouraged in more rural areas of

the County. This will help to maintain the rural character of the County while also helping to ensure that future population growth can be accommodated in proximity to services.

2.5.4.2 Urban Growth Areas

The Urban Growth Area (UGA) designation establishes the area within which incorporated cities and towns may grow and annex over a 20-year planning period. The UGA designation is meant to include land, which is already distinguished by urban patterns of growth, or to identify land that will be required for future urban development. Forecasted population growth, land capacity, and the ability to extend urban services are some of the key factors that are considered when UGA boundaries are defined. The specific land use designations for each of the towns in the County may be found in their respective comprehensive plans.

The Pend Oreille Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs) (Appendix E), adopted in 1993, revised in April 1996, and updated as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update process, address Urban Growth Areas and provides direction on the general process to:

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- Determine UGA boundaries;
- Designate UGA boundaries;
- Locate industrial and commercial development within each UGA;
- Establish buffers between industrial, commercial and residential development; and
- Review and amend UGA boundaries.

The city and towns of Pend Oreille County are situated in the Pend Oreille River valley and, with the exception of Cusick, generally above the 100-year floodplain. The predominant land use is urban-density residential in the incorporated areas, with large-lot residential and small-scale agricultural pursuits within the Ione and Newport Urban Growth Areas. With the exception of the City of Newport, there is a relatively small amount of industrial and commercial land use in urban areas.

Each of the municipalities in the County have developed their own Comprehensive Plans. An overview of the land use inventory and distribution in each municipality is described below. Urban standards should be developed for UGAs and administered by jurisdictions within their respective UGAs.

2.5.4.3 Town of Cusick

- **Land Use Pattern:** Built on a resource-based economy, Cusick is sited in a river valley surrounded to the west by the Cusick Flats, a relatively large area of hay meadows and pastures west of the Pend Oreille River.
- **Land Use Distribution:** Residential development is the predominant land use in Cusick. Public lands are located in the northeast portion of the town and the county fairgrounds west of Highway 20. There is a small amount of industrial land north of the Calispell Creek,

east of and adjacent to Highway 20, between the railroad tracks and Highway 20 north of Kings Lake Road, and south of Kings Lake Road adjacent to the railroad. Recent Kalispel tribe development has occurred north of Cusick along Highway 20, including a rest stop, market, restaurant and casino. An RV park is also under development.

- **Future Land Use:** Future land uses include open space along the river, highway commercial uses along Highway 20, industrial areas near the rail line, and residential throughout. In the core of the town, the 'Village Center' designation includes a mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses.
- **Urban Growth Area**: Cusick's Urban Growth Area includes the existing city limits, an area southwest of city limits, Osprey Landing and the community of Usk. The City and its UGA is approximately 2,495 acres in size. A Cusick/Usk UGA subarea planning effort is underway that will further refine future development plans for this area. Development of the subarea planning effort is coordinated by a steering and executive committee and guided by several planning principles. The draft subarea plan includes draft goals and policies, recommended zoning and development regulations, capital improvements and other information. The subarea plan is expected to be adopted by the County, Cusick and the Kalispel tribe in 2020 or 2021. Population projections for Cusick shows 230 residents in the year 2029. Projected to 2039, the population is estimated to grow to approximately 245 people. See Table 2-3.

2.5.4.4 Town of Ione

- **Land Use Pattern:** The town of Ione is built on a resource-based economy, sited in a river valley with scattered hay meadows and pastures in the area to the south of the town and west of the river.
- **Land Use Distribution:** Current land use primarily consists of residential, with a village center at its core and two industrial areas-the old mill site in the southern portion of town and a small area in the northeast part of town adjacent to the east side of Highway 31.
- **Future Land Use:** Future land uses include residential along the river and in the west part of town, Village Center in the core of town and in the southwest, southeast, and northeast corners of town. Light Industrial uses are anticipated adjacent to both sides of the railroad tracks. Two small areas of Open Space are designated, along the river and in the north part of town adjacent to the eastside of Highway 31.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Ione's UGA is approximately 825 acres. Population projections for Ione is 440 residents in the years 2029 and 2039, which is a projection of maintaining current population.

2.5.4.5 Town of Metaline

- **Land Use Pattern:** Metaline is a small town built on a resource-based economy whose land use pattern is defined by a very narrow river valley with mountains framing the western boundary and forestlands surrounding the town.
- **Existing Land Use**: The current land use consists mostly of residential in the northwest and southeast parts of town, public land in the northeast and southwest, and a mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses in the Village Center located in the south half of town along Highway 31. The rest of the town is considered vacant.
- **Future Land Use:** Future Land Use is predominantly residential with Open Space in the middle of town between the river and Highway 31, in the southwest corner of town, and a small piece along the western boundary of town. The Village Center occupies an L-shaped portion of the southwest part of town and there is a small piece of Highway Commercial use along the north boundary of town adjacent to the west side of Highway 31.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Metaline's Urban Growth Area is its existing corporate boundaries and comprises roughly 294 acres of land.

In recent years there have been no new subdivisions in and around Metaline. Population projections for Metaline is 159 residents in the year 2029. Projected to 2039, the population is estimated to further reduce to approximately 162 persons.

2.5.4.6 Town of Metaline Falls

- **Land Use Pattern:** Metaline Falls is a small town built on a resource-based economy located in a very narrow valley overlooking the Pend Oreille River. The river defines the western boundary of the town, while mountains and forestlands surround the remainder of the town's perimeter. Metaline Falls is the northern terminus of the railroad in the Pend Oreille River valley.
- **Existing Land Use:** The predominant land use is residential with open space located along the river. The Central Business District is generally located in the center of town. A mix of commercial, institutional, and residential uses is located in the western, south-central, and east-central parts of town.
- **Future Land Use:** Future land uses in Metaline Falls will likely be similar to what is present today, predominantly residential with a mix of uses in the Village Center and Central Business District. Open space areas will be concentrated near existing parks and areas with severe natural limitations on development such as steep slopes and floodplain areas.
- **Urban Growth Area:** The Urban Growth Area of the town coincides with the town's corporate limits and comprises approximately 143 acres. Population projections from the Metaline Falls Comprehensive Plan show 243 residents in the years 2029 and 2039, which

is a projection of maintaining current population, acknowledging the recent shut down of mine operations as the facility is placed in a maintenance mode for the foreseeable future

Commented [BF1]: Added per PC comment on 8/13

2.5.4.7 City of Newport

- **Land Use Patterns:** Newport is the largest city in the County, serving as the distribution center for the County's natural resources industries and is the County seat. Newport is situated on the west bank of the Pend Oreille River where the river enters the County and bends generally to the north. To the southwest of the city is the Little Spokane River drainage. To the north and to the south the land rises fairly rapidly into forestland.
- **Existing Land Use:** The current land use consists of residential west of Highways 2 and 20. Commercial uses are located in the downtown area and north side of Highway 2 in the southwest part of town. Industrial uses are also located in the Central Business District near the railroad tracks. Public uses are located in the west of southwest portion of town, west of downtown. The City's current area is approximately 452 acres.
- **Future Land Use:** According to the Comprehensive Plan, demand for commercial and industrial uses in Newport is anticipated to increase in the planning horizon, along with additional residential development. Open space designations include city parks, Kelly Island, and the headwaters of the Little Spokane River.
- **Urban Growth Area:** Newport's Urban Growth Area was revised in 2001 to align with the City's water system constraints. The water system was updated to accommodate additional growth, and the City is planning an update to its Urban Growth Area boundary in the next few years. The total area of Newport's UGA is approximately 789 acres, of which approximately 400 acres is considered developable. The total area of Newport's city limits and UGA combined is approximately 1,501 acres. Population projections for the City of Newport shows 2,213 residents in the year 2029. Projected to 2039, the population is estimated to grow to approximately 2,270 persons.

2.5.4.8 Land Capacity-Urban Lands

For the incorporated areas and their Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), future land use needs can be forecasted by comparing projected population growth with current land consumption patterns. The breakdown of land uses and the amount of vacant land as a percentage of the UGA can be used to calculate the amount of additional land necessary for the future urban population.

The total area of the incorporated areas and their UGAs is 3,725 acres. Of this area, approximately 442 acres or 12% of the land is vacant within city or town limits, and 855 acres or 23% is vacant within the UGAs. A net increase of 1,075 persons (approximately 457 households) is projected in the County by 2039 (approximately 54 persons/year), of which an estimated 130 persons or 55 households may occur in cities and towns, primarily in Cusick/Usk area and in Newport.

2.5.5 *Rural Community Areas*

The County is building off the past Comprehensive Plan where nine areas where identified for additional and potentially higher density uses and more detailed planning efforts. From the review of these areas, review of where water and sewer services are provided by special purpose districts, and with public input, the County is identifying the follow as Rural Community Areas (RCA). These include:

- Diamond Lake
- Sacheen Lake
- Ponderay Shores
- South Ione
- Lenora/Skookum Rendezvous
- Outer Metaline Falls

These proposed RCAs are where additional higher density growth is expected based on sewer and water services being available, smaller lots and commercial development and other services more readily available. See Appendix D, Figure YY for a map of each of the proposed boundaries for these RCAs. RCAs lot sizes will range from 1 to 5 acre minimums, based on where services exist. Lot density can be as low as one unit per acre where both water and sewer services are available. If just water or sewer is available, then the minimum density will be one unit per 2.5 acres or one unit per 5 acres, based on additional service capacity for water and sewer utilities. The RCAs are higher density opportunity areas in addition to the cities and towns and associated UGAs already existing in the County, as discussed in Section 2.5.4.

2.5.6 *Rural Lands*

2.5.6.1 Overview

'Rural lands' means different things to different people. Rural lands could mean broad expanses of undeveloped land, sparsely populated areas, open space, the presence of agricultural fields, large single family lots, and limited development in general. Typically, Rural Lands are those areas in the county outside the UGA boundaries and among the resource areas, neither intended for urban-type development nor well suited for agricultural, forest, or mineral resource extraction. These rural areas contain: single-family homes on various-sized lots and parcels, including recorded surveys; subdivisions and short plats; small-scale agricultural and timber operations; and commercial and industrial operations. Industrial and commercial uses in rural areas do not require urban levels of service provided they are compatible with the surrounding rural land uses. The rural areas serve as

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transition areas between Urban Lands and Resource Lands, and retain the rural or agrarian character of the County while also providing for a diversity of lifestyle choices to residents.

The primary purpose of this Rural Lands sub-element is to describe the existing conditions and character of the rural areas in the County, in part through an inventory of existing parcels and uses of the land.

2.5.6.2 Land Use Inventory and Distribution-Rural Lands

Pend Oreille County's rural character is based upon traditional rural landscapes, activities, lifestyles, and aesthetic values. The rural character of Pend Oreille is best described in the Preface: A Statement of Values: Why We Live Here.

The existing rural areas of Pend Oreille County are characterized by a variety of development patterns. The predominant uses in the County's Rural Lands are small-scale timber and agriculture activity, and large-lot residential. Residential land use patterns range from areas of dispersed very large acreage residential parcels, to single residences on 2.5 acres with private wells and septic systems, to more densely settled rural subdivisions served by community water and/or sewer. Existing platted and improved residential use covers over 5,000 acres and is predominantly single-family. Approximately 11,000 platted acres are unimproved and considered potentially developable.

The most populated rural residential areas in the County are: Diamond Lake; Sacheen Lake; and along the Pend Oreille River between Newport and Usk, in the vicinity of Blueslide, and from south of Tiger to Ione. Other rural residential settlement can be found around or near other smaller lakes and along or near major roads. The southern portion of the County is the most populous and continues to develop more rapidly than the rest of the County, in part due to its proximity to Spokane's jobs and retail attractions which are more readily accessible by good automobile transportation on Highways 2 and 211. A figure is provided in Appendix D, Map Folio, Figure ZZ, that identifies the amount of growth that has occurred in recent years in the various geographic regions of the County.

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Small-scale timber and agricultural uses, and limited commercial and industrial areas comprise the remainder of land uses in rural areas. There are approximately 6753 unimproved lots in the rural areas of the County today totaling almost 231,637 acres.

2.5.6.3 Land Capacity-Rural Lands

This analysis examines the supply of vacant parcels, assumes that all lots are buildable, and does not account for the additional development potential of existing, developed and occupied lots. The vacant buildable lots have been compared to land capacity to determine if there is sufficient rural land available to meet future projected rural growth. According to 2017 Census data, approximately 76% of Pend Oreille County's population lives outside the incorporated areas of the County. As previously discussed, the projected net population increase from 2019-2039 is 895 persons, or

roughly 45 persons per year. If roughly 75% of this population increase is accommodated in rural areas, then approximately 672 new rural residents would need to be accommodated in unincorporated Pend Oreille County or roughly 285 households by 2039. There are approximately 6,753 unimproved lots in the rural areas of the County today, providing more than adequate capacity. While the land capacity is available to accommodate growth in the rural areas of the County, the Countywide Planning Policies direct that the bulk of the growth in the County should be planned within urban areas and Rural Community Areas, in proximity to services as discussed in the Section 2.5.4 Urban Lands. Rural lands policies (Section 2.4.2) and the Future Land Use Map direct the nature of future development in rural areas to ensure that the rural character is protected, to reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development, and to minimize land use conflicts.

Commented [BF3]: Added per PC discussion in Feb 2020

2.5.7 Natural Resource Lands

2.5.7.1 Overview

Logging, ranching, farming, and mining have shaped the character of Pend Oreille County. People who are not involved in these traditional rural industries are attracted to the landscape these industries have helped create but may not understand the realities of living in a community where people work the land.

Natural Resource products from farms and forests are a strong component of the economy, providing jobs, tax revenue, and valuable products and materials for local use and export. Farmlands and forests also provide aesthetic, recreational, and environmental benefits to the public while contributing to the diverse character of the County. Mining lands provide materials for development and construction purposes. The resource land designations are tailored to each of the resources and address the guidelines provided by state law. A brief description of the state minimum guidelines and methodology used in designating forestry, agriculture, and mineral resource lands is provided in Appendix C, Resource Lands Review memorandum (Anchor QEA 2020). The memorandum includes a description of the various factors considered in the review for each resource type, findings and the primary criteria applied in the review. The recommendations identified that many parcels outside of City and Town limits and UGAs in Pend Oreille County should be considered for reclassification, with some changes to include new natural resource lands and other lands to remove the designation lands. Based on this review the following updates are recommended for both private and public lands in Pend Oreille County, increasing the NR-designated lands from 248,531 acres to 806,591 acres.

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Private Lands

There are currently 248,531 acres of parcels zoned either NR20 or NR40. This draft future land use updated NR designation map identifies 250,141 acres of private land that would be designated NR designated parcels, which would be an increase of 1,610 acres over current NR-zoned private lands.

Public and Tribal Lands

There are 556,450 acres under public (federal, state and local) and tribal ownership that are proposed to be designated as NR, noting all these will become one NR designation in the final version of this map.

Additionally, Public Land is currently a separate zone, but this zoning and land use designation is being recommended to go away as part of the 2020 update, with the vast majority being designated as NR. A small percentage of Public Land will be designated as other draft future land use designations (such as Parks and Recreation, Rural, Rural Residential or other).

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2.5.7.2 Forest Lands

The most prevalent types of trees located in the County are Douglas fir, lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, and larch. Commercial timber in the county is found from approximately 2,500 feet to over 4,500 feet above sea level. Almost all of the timber resource in the north half of the County is contained within the Colville and Panhandle National Forests, and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the County. Several large timber companies own much of the checkerboard timberland in the center area and west edge of the County and the southwest area of the County. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) owns approximately 20,000 acres of forest land in scattered locations throughout the County. Much of the non-industrial assessor designated timberland is located within the bounds of Highways 2, 20, and 211 in the south part of the County.

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2.5.7.3 Agricultural Lands

Agriculture is the major land use on the County's privately owned lands. There are a total of approximately 308,383 acres of agricultural landcover in the County, including forested rangeland. Rangelands are the main type of agricultural activity in the County covering approximately 94% of the County's private agricultural lands, including private timber lands that are also used for rangelands. A small portion of the County also produces irrigated and dryland crops. Agricultural lands located within Environmentally Sensitive areas exist in floodplain and associated wetland areas along the Pend Oreille River, in wetted and wetland valley bottoms of other drainage areas in the County, and in upland fields and forested range lands.

Rangelands are areas that are primarily kept in a natural or semi-natural state to facilitate grazing of livestock. These areas are essential for production of livestock, but also provide value to many wildlife species by preventing conversion to more intensive land uses. The limited growing season in

Pend Oreille County is maximized for ranching by using higher elevation ranges as summer pasture and river valleys for hay production to feed cattle through the winter. Access to publicly owned, forested rangeland is key to agricultural viability in the County (WBC 2018)

2.5.7.4 Mineral Lands

The mining industry has a long-standing history in Pend Oreille County. The zinc and lead mine near Metaline Falls has been placed in a standby, minimum maintenance mode and is expected to remain in this condition during the next several years. In addition, the County owns several rock and gravel sites.

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2.5.8 Tribal Lands

Tribal lands are designated for the Kalispel Tribe reservation and other lands held by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs on behalf of the Tribe. The reservation is both a homeland and a refuge where the Kalispel can maintain their tribal identity and traditions. The reservation is located along the Pend Oreille River, and this river is central to Kalispel's cultural identity. In addition to the river and the reservation, many other areas within Pend Oreille County and the surrounding region are of cultural and geographic importance such as mountains and peaks, lakes and streams, hunting and fishing camps, historical summer and winter village locations, and areas important for other cultural activities[3]. Fee simple lands owned by the Tribe are designated as Natural Resource or other land uses as applicable.

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Of significance to note related to future land use on the Kalispel Tribe reservation, EPA recently redesignated lands within the exterior boundaries of the reservation to Class I under the Clean Air Act program for the prevention of significant deterioration of air quality. Redesignation to Class I will result in lowering the allowable increases in ambient concentrations of particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides on the reservation. Concurrently, the EPA is codifying the redesignation through a revision to the Federal Implementation Plan currently in place for the reservation. The final rule became effective on August 19, 2019[4].

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2.6 Future Land Use

Based on the estimated population growth, Pend Oreille County needs to plan for approximately 1,075 persons over the next 20 years, or 54 new people and 23 new households per year.

[3] Ethnoscience, 2000. A Kalispel Cultural Geography, compiled by Sherri Deaver and illustrated by James. E. Lieb for the Kalispel Natural Resource Department, September 2000.

[4] Federal Register, 2019. Indian Country: Air Quality Planning and Management; Federal Implementation Plan for the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington; Redesignation to a PSD Class I Area. A Rule by the Environmental Protection Agency on 07/18/2019

Of the approximate 896,000 acres in the County, 93% or 833,000 acres is in large-block ownerships that are unlikely to change from their current undeveloped or relatively undeveloped state. These lands include federal and state timberlands, forests and parks, timber and agricultural resource lands and also include wetlands, streams and Environmentally Sensitive areas.

Of the remaining 7% of land, or approximately 63,000 acres:

- 3,041 acres comprise the urban growth areas (UGAs);
- Rural settlement areas, crossroad commercial centers, and highway commercial areas occupy about 27,000 acres;
- Existing developments in rural areas (suburban enclaves) occupy about 17,000 acres;
- Existing rural industrial areas occupy about 500 acres; and
- Shoreline and existing resort developments occupy less than 15,000 acres.

2.6.1 Future Land Use Designations

2.6.1.1 Future Land Use Map

Pend Oreille County has prepared a Future Land Use Map (see Appendix D, Figure XX) that highlights land use designations along with the associated zoning map to guide future development. In accordance with the provisions of this Comprehensive Plan, all parcels in unincorporated Pend Oreille County have received one of the following Future Land Use Designations:

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- Tribal – Lands included as part of the Kalispel Tribe reservation or lands held in trust for the tribe by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Natural Resource – Includes both 40 and 20-acre parcel densities, including designated agricultural, mineral and forest land of long-term commercial significance, along with federal, state and tribal lands
- Rural – Includes both 40 and 20-acre parcel densities, with rural activities supporting single-family residential and natural resource uses, and maintaining open space
- Rural Residential – This includes 10 and 5 acre parcel densities (and in some cases 2.5 acre or smaller lots that are pre-existing) supporting residential development and small acreage farm or animal grazing operations;
- Higher Density Rural Residential – this is a new designation that only applies in the proposed Rural Community Areas. Lot density can be as low as one unit per acre where both water and sewer services are available. If just water or sewer is available, then the minimum density will be one unit per 2.5 acres or one unit per 5 acres, based on additional service capacity for water and sewer utilities. –
- Industrial – this is a new designation for the County and includes both heavy and light industrial uses in areas throughout the County;

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- Commercial – this is a new designation for the County and includes highway and other commercial areas of development

Prior to this update the County land use designations and zoning mirrored each other. The revised land use designations includes fewer and consolidated categories when compared to the zoning.

Related to the land use designations, associated zoning and density criteria are provided in Table 2-8

Table 2-8
Rural Lands Zoning Density Criteria Matrix

Factors	Rural-5	Rural-10	Rural-20	Rural-40
Density	1 dwelling unit/5 acres	1 dwelling unit/10 acres	1 dwelling unit/20 acres	1 dwelling unit/40 acres
Relation to road system	Located along U.S. highways, state routes, designated arterials, and County Major (07) and Minor (08) collectors (see list).	Parcels with frontage on maintained County roads with adequate access.	Adequate access required.	Beyond the existing all-weather county road system or private access network.
Relation to fire districts	There are no fire district or fire station location requirements for these designations.			

Factors	Natural Resource Lands 20	Natural Resource Lands 40	Tribal Lands
Density	1 dwelling unit/20 acres	1 dwelling unit/40 acres	N/A
Relation to road system	Must have approved road access.	No road access.	N/A
Tax Status	Designated as Timber, or Agricultural Lands, or currently in use as a mine.	Designated as Timber, or Agricultural Lands, or currently in use as a mine.	Located within the boundaries of the Kalispel Reservation or lands held in trust for the tribe by U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs.

2.7 Military Training Routes

When planning for new development, the County has considered the role of military training areas in support of national defense. There are military training routes (MTRs) present in the County that function as "highways in the sky." These MTRs are used by military aircraft to practice high- and low-altitude training exercises and to traverse between military installations.

Any development or new construction that would impact or hinder the MTRs' function and viability is considered incompatible land use. The County has identified policies and updates to development regulations to ensure MTRs are protected from incompatible development. As part of the mandatory Land Use Element requirement, the GMA directs counties planning under RCW 36.01.320 to provide notice to the military "upon receipt of an application for a permit to site an energy plant or alternative energy resource" and provide an opportunity to military for comment before action is taken on the permit application.

Per RCW 36.70A.530, "The United States military is a vital component of the Washington State economy. The protection of military installations from incompatible development of land is essential to the health of Washington's economy and quality of life. Incompatible development of land close to a military installation reduces the ability of the military to complete its mission or to undertake new missions and increases its cost of operating..." [2004 c 28 § 1.].

2.8 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

This section provides an overview of Environmentally Sensitive areas in the County including wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat, conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. The County's Environmentally Sensitive Areas Code, was updated as part of the County's 2020 Comprehensive Plan update, to address the latest GMA requirements. Designation maps were also updated (see Appendix D, Figures XX - YY).

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2.8.1 Wetlands

Wetlands in Pend Oreille County provide a range of functions for water quality, hydrology, and fish and wildlife habitat. Wetlands are characterized as areas that are inundated with water and are surrounded by vegetation adapted to saturated soil conditions. Wetlands act to reduce siltation and erosion by catching particles in vegetation or allowing sediment to settle on the bottom. Filtration of water also occurs as water is filtered through wetland vegetation. Wetland vegetation also provides shade, which acts to moderate water temperature. Additionally, wetlands act as water storage which moderates flooding and contributes to base flow. Wetlands also provide aquatic and woody vegetated habitat for fish and wildlife.

2.8.2 Aquifer Recharge Areas

Aquifer recharge areas provide clean and safe public drinking water supplies by protecting areas near public water supplies from contamination from groundwater infiltration.

2.8.3 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs) include streams, riparian vegetation, and upland habitats that provide water quality, hydrology, soil, and fish and wildlife habitat functions. FWHCAs provide migration corridors; breeding and reproduction areas; forage, cover, and refugia space; and wintering habitat for wildlife species. Streams provide a key habitat, and streamside vegetation functions as a source of organic material, habitat structures and cover, streambank stabilization, and shade to help regulate water temperatures.

Habitats and Species in Pend Oreille County

In the County, habitats include wetlands, rivers, and streams that support aquatic and terrestrial species.

Common fish and wildlife species and habitats in Pend Oreille County include:

- Bull trout
- Rainbow trout
- Kokanee
- Cutthroat trout
- Lynx habitat
- Elk and mule deer
- Riparian habitat

Large FWHCAs provide for species that require large spaces or range for migration, forage, and cover. Habitats of local importance may support sensitive species throughout their lifecycle, or are areas that are of limited availability, or high vulnerability to

alteration. FWHCAs (riparian areas and wetlands) also help improve water quality, affect hydrology, contribute to soil health, and provide a variety of habitats.

Management of the Pend Oreille River affects the County's economy by impacting water quality, the fishery, wildlife habitat, recreation, shoreline erosion, property values, and power generation. Despite these impacts, decisions about river flows are made at the state and federal levels, without effective participation by the people of Pend Oreille County. Current watershed planning efforts in the Pend Oreille River watershed and in the Little Spokane River watershed are two such examples of implementing this proposed strategy.

Rivers, Streams and Groundwater Wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater are among Pend Oreille County's most valuable natural assets. The quality of these resources may be threatened by land use change, including dense development served by on-site sewage disposal systems, the accelerated runoff and erosion that can result from road construction and other development activities, hazardous waste spills, and the destruction of the riparian vegetation that provides natural filters along lakeshores and streams.

Geologic history suggests that Diamond Lake and the other lakes of southern Pend Oreille County are groundwater-regime lakes that could be affected by nearby groundwater pumping.

The Pend Oreille River flows from the Idaho border near Newport northward through the County for approximately 71.5 river miles. The Pend Oreille River is the County's single most prominent landscape feature and an important economic, recreational, and scenic resource for local people and visitors. Further development along the County's rivers and their tributaries may result in the loss of scenic, recreational, and habitat values, and the economic activity those values generate. Development in stream corridors can also adversely affect water quality, and that development may be exposed to a flood hazard. Development along the Pend Oreille River may also be exposed to a bank erosion hazard. Poorly designed efforts to control bank erosion and loss of riparian areas can result in the loss of real estate and deterioration of water quality and wildlife habitat.

2.8.4 Watersheds

Pend Oreille County includes parts of two major watersheds: the Pend Oreille and the Little Spokane. Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) are the administrative boundaries for watersheds in the state of Washington. The state's 62 WRIAs were authorized under the Water Resources Act of 1971, codified as RCW 90.54, and formalized under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-500-040. Enhanced Special House Bill (ESHB) 2514, the Watershed Management Act, was passed by the 1998 legislature and codified as RCW 90.58. This legislation provides a framework for locally based watershed planning and resource management efforts. The four components of watershed planning

include water quantity, water quality, habitat, and in stream flows. The primary goals of local watershed planning are to:

- Assess the status of water resources within Washington's 62 WRIAs; and
- To determine how to balance competing demands for water within the WRIA.

Pend Oreille County is an initiating government of and participant in the ESHB 2514 Watershed Planning Units for WRIAs 55/57 and for WRIA 62. A brief description of each WRIA and its watershed planning process follow.

2.8.4.1 Water Resource Inventory Area-55

WRIA 55, the Little Spokane River Basin, encompasses about 432,000 acres, mostly in Spokane County. The headwaters of the Little Spokane River and its West Branch drain the southern portion of the County. This watershed includes many of the County's recreational lakes. The main stem of the Little Spokane River begins in the County just west of the City of Newport on the north side of Highway 2. The WRIA 55 Watershed Planning Unit (WPU) was formed in 1999. The WPU tasks include: to develop estimates of current water use, in stream flow, and future water needs; to determine the amount of water allocated for use in the basin; and evaluate water quality data as related to flow. Spokane County is the lead agency for the WPU.

2.8.4.2 Water Resource Inventory Area-62

WRIA 62, the Pend Oreille River Basin, encompasses about 795,000 acres, mostly in Pend Oreille County. The WRIA 62 Watershed Planning Unit (WPU) was formed in 1998. The WPU will address water quantity, water quality, and habitat. The Pend Oreille Conservation District is the lead agency for the WRIA 62 WPU.

2.8.4.3 Climate Change

Climate change, as the name suggests, refers to the changes in the global climate which result from the increasing average global temperature. For example, changes in precipitation patterns, increased prevalence of droughts, heat waves, and other extreme weather, etc. "Global warming" refers to the increase in Earth's average surface temperature due to rising levels of greenhouse gases. There may be many causes of climate change but in this plan the focus is on the potential effects it could have on our environment.

In Washington State, likely climate change impacts and indicators that may need to be addressed include[5]:

[5] Climate Impacts Group. 2009. The Washington Climate Change Impacts Assessment. M. McGuire Elsner, J. Littell, and L. Whitely Binder (eds). Center for Science in the Earth System, Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Oceans, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington.

- Likely increase in frequency and intensity of heat waves
- Retreating glaciers and reduced snowpack in the mountains
- Change in volume and timing of precipitation with possible landslides and flooding
- Greenhouse gas emissions increase
- Degraded air quality
- Fish and wildlife habitat destruction
- Altered critical areas and ecosystems

Washington State Department of Natural Resources has developed a Plan for Climate Resilience, which details the threats climate change poses for the agency and the state and provides recommendations for mitigating them.
DNR worked with various stakeholders to identify ways to build resilience against potential climate change impacts, including the following applicable to Pend Oreille County:

- "Increasing use of state lands for renewable energy to lessen carbon emissions and increase revenue for trust beneficiaries
- Restoring health of eastern Washington forests to limit the size and impact of wildfires and provide new jobs in the timber industry
- Reforesting with species of trees suited for a changing climate…
- Strengthening roads and trails to withstand increased flooding and landslides

The plan also lays out steps DNR will take to manage Washington's public lands climate change in mind[6].

2.8.5 Frequently Flooded Areas

Frequently flooded areas (FFAs) protect public health and safety by providing temporary flood water storage and conveyance. They also provide riparian habitat and other wildlife benefits and can improve water quality and recharge groundwater. FFAs can affect surface and groundwater quality and hydrology (timing and magnitude of flows and alluvial aquifer recharge), improve or degrade soil health based on vegetative conditions, and contribute to riparian habitat diversity.

There have been three major floods along the Pend Oreille River during the past 100 years, the most recent in 1997. The flood of 1997 was designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a major flood, with river flows over 140,000 cubic feet per second (cfs)-36,000 cfs above the official flood flow of 100,000 cfs. Three dams-Albeni Falls, Box Canyon, and Boundary-have been built since 1948, however those structures are not capable of controlling a major flood such as the flood of 1997. A detailed flood insurance study updating flood-rise data for the Pend Oreille River was

[6] Safeguarding our Lands, Waters and Communities – A Plan for Climate Resilience, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, February 20, 2020.

published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in March 2002 and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in 2002. Future development in shoreline areas includes consideration of flood hazard risks as part of the County's SMP. Pend Oreille County reviews the FIRM maps for developments within the floodplain. Due to the potential loss of life and property associated with flooding, it is important that flood hazards are considered as a part of future land use.

2.8.5.1 Shoreline and Floodplain Management

The Pend Oreille River is designated as a Shoreline of Statewide Significance in the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (see RCW 90.58.030). The current shoreline master plan was updated in 2015, and is incorporated into this plan by reference.

Additionally, Pend Oreille County's 55 lakes are important economic, recreational, and scenic resources for local people and visitors. Increasing development pressure around the lakes may compromise these valued resources. The updated Shoreline Master Program addresses the balance of providing for shorelines uses and public access, while protecting resources and maintaining no net loss of ecological functions.

2.8.5.2 Geologic Hazards

Geologic hazards include steep slopes, water erosion areas, landslide areas, soils more susceptible to earthquake risks, and other geologic risks.

3 Economic Development Element

3.1 Overview

The Economic Development element includes a range of economic goals, policies, and implementation strategies, that when implemented will promote the economic vitality of Pend Oreille County. Economic vitality can be described as job retention, creation, and training; public and private capital investment; and business and community capacity-building. The region's economic vitality is an important determinant affecting the overall condition and quality of life in our community. Economic development is accomplished with the cooperation and collaboration of the public and the private sectors in the County, and with the involvement of County citizens. This partnership is essential to ensure that commitment of County and other resources will implement the vision for the County, which will benefit current and future residents of Pend Oreille County.

The County has established an Economic Development Council (EDC) to help guide economic development efforts in the County. The EDC is comprised of private sector and local government representatives and is supported by an EDC director. Additionally, for certain economic development activities, the County participates in the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD). The mission of TEDD is to promote economic resiliency, job creation, and business retention through maintaining and developing business, tourism, community, and area development, while preserving the culture and environment of the region. The district plays a key role in developing strategies to assist, attract, and retain businesses within Pend Oreille County, guided by the TEDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2018 – 2022 (Ferry, Pend Oreille, and

Stevens County 2017[7]). The CEDS contains additional business and industry background information on the County.

TEDDs primary functions are to:

- Assist existing businesses in retaining their employees, as well as in expanding their businesses
- Encourage new businesses to locate in the region
- Coordinate economic development activities with other organizations in the community

Finally, the County also partners with the Kalispel Tribe in economic development activities.

Pend Oreille County supports the maintenance and growth of a stable and diverse economy; supports partnerships between businesses, government, and communities; and provides a supportive business environment for companies to grow, invest in, create, and retain jobs. The goals and policies contained within the Economic Development element, are consistent with and furthers the County's vision as expressed in the Statement of Values: Why We Live Here, as well as the vision identified by the EDC, which states:

> "We envision a future that enhances our rural lifestyle, strengthens our sense of community, respects our diversity and natural environment, and increases opportunities for cultural, intellectual, and economic growth."

The County works with those responsible for implementing the strategies included in this section of the Economic Development Element.

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3.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The importance of economic development is recognized in the Growth Management Act as one of the 14 goals of the Growth Management Act:

> "Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantage persons, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities."

[7] Ferry County WA, Pend Oreille County WA, and Stevens County WA, 2017. *Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2018 – 2022*. Submitted to and approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. August 23, 2017

Natural Resource Industries are a key component of economic development in the County. The Growth Management Act's goal for Natural Resources is:

> "Natural resource industries. Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses."

3.2.1 Regional Coordination

In the regional context, this element is to be coordinated, cooperative, and consistent with the plans and efforts of the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Council (EDC), the Tri-county Economic Development District (TEDD), the Kalispel Tribe and other economic development partners. This element presents economic development in the framework of the County's other comprehensive planning goals..

3.3 Economic Development Goals

Economic Development Goal #1: Collaborate with communities, Kalispel Tribe, EDC and other economic development partners to support growth of county economy.

Economic Development Goal #2: Support education and training opportunities to equip Pend Oreille County residents to participate in the workforce

Economic Development Goal #3: Encourage employment opportunities, the retention and expansion of existing businesses, and new business development

Economic Development Goal #4: Promote the coordination of infrastructure development that will enhance our quality of life and attract business investment.

3.4 Economic Development Goal #5: Support the designation and preparation of industrial sites with infrastructure, updated development regulations and documentation of existing environmental conditions to position for future development opportunities. Economic Development Policies

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In support of the Economic Development Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Economic Development Policies:

Economic Development Policy #1: Pend Oreille County shall update land use designations and develop land use regulations that support and encourage economic development consistent with this and the other elements of this plan.

Economic Development Policy #2: The Pend Oreille County Capital Facilities Plan should include appropriate infrastructure to serve commercial and industrial lands.

Economic Development Policy #3: The Pend Oreille County EDC should maintain a current list of industrial sites, and support making these sites available for development. Identify and implement marketing strategies for attracting businesses to these sites.

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Economic Development Policy #4: Consider criteria to address where additional heavy industry locations can occur and how such future industry should be sited. Generally development should be:

- Away from developed communities and residential areas, such that noise, vibrations, and visual impacts will not disturb existing or future uses.
- With access to major transportation facilities and utilities—railroad or interstate roads and necessary water. Industry will pay costs associated with improving county roads.
- Must consider topography, groundwater vulnerability, and other environmental factors (i.e., Class 5 Groundwater Vulnerable Areas and riparian corridors).

Economic Development Policy #5: Support environmental review of development proposals consistent with the State Environmental Policy Act. Evaluate and mitigate, as applicable, impacts on adjacent lands and also address noise, odor, water and air quality, light, vibration, and other potential impacts.

Economic Development Policy #6: Pend Oreille County should encourage and participate in coordinated efforts to promote tourism on a countywide basis.

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Economic Development Policy #7: Pend Oreille County should promote and support basic and continuing education, on the job training, and vocational training programs that will prepare residents to fill existing and future jobs.

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3.5 Existing Conditions

Historically, Pend Oreille County has had a cyclical economy dependent on the extraction of the abundant natural resources of the area, such as timber and minerals. The County unemployment rate is consistently among the highest in the State. The average unemployment rate in the first half of 2019 was 8.4 percent, up from 7.8 percent in the first half of 2018. Per capita income levels are well below the state average. An important part of the background for this plan is the rapid economic change that is affecting attractive rural areas throughout the West. Traditional extractive industries are no longer the principal source of income in places like Pend Oreille County. A profile with

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additional detail on the County economy is available through the Washington State Employment Security Division (ESD)[8].

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A lead and zinc mine has moved to care and maintenance mode and ceased production in 2019, eliminating more than 200 jobs in the County. Replacing these jobs is one focus of the economic development strategies outlined in this plan element.

3.5.1 Recent Economic Development Activities

The County has acknowledged the significance of economic development through its membership in the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD) and through its part in funding the work of the EDC. Additionally the County recognizes work by the Kalispel Tribe through its economic development agency, the Kalispel Tribal Economic Authority (KTEA), which has made significant investments in the County in recent years with additional development plans underway.

The Newport census tract #9703 is one of five census tracts in northeast Washington that is part of the Five Star Enterprise Community (EC). The Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community (EZ/EC) program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program that provides training and funding for community-directed advancement and economic development for a ten-year period. The EZ/EC program provides seed money for locally directed projects that are sustainable, build jobs, and help to build and maintain community partnerships. The Five Star goals address the following issues: housing, education and training, employment opportunities, coordinated leadership, health care, and public safety.

3.5.2 Selected Indicators of the Economy

The indicators that are included in this section of the Economic Development Element assist the informational and analytical considerations of local economy. These indicators help to form a more complete picture of the economic situation in the county:

- Economic sectors;
- Land availability and suitability.

3.5.2.1 Economic Sectors

The non-agricultural employment sectors are: manufacturing; construction and mining; transportation and utilities; wholesale and retail trade; fire, insurance and real estate; services; and government. The workforce is allocated to these various sectors as a means of identifying the contributions of the different components of the economy.

Commented [BF4]: PC had asked for top 10 employers to be added here but the public disclosure laws now prohibit the state from making this info available.

[8] https://esdorchardstorage.blob.core.windows.net/esdwa/Default/ESDWAGOV/labor-market-info/Libraries/Regional-reports/County-Profiles/Pend%20Oreille%20County%20Profile%202019.pdf. Doug Tweedy, Regional labor economist Updated October 2019

Basic industries are those, which bring outside money into the County. Forest and agricultural products, minerals, and manufacturing are the foundation of the local economy. However, most of the forest, agricultural, and mineral resources are extracted or harvested here and processed elsewhere. The Ponderay Newsprint Company, Ponderay Valley Fiber and the Kalispel tribe are some of the largest resource-based employers in the County. The Kalispel tribe also provides jobs in the hospitality, retail, warehousing, residential housing, office space and entertainment sectors[9]. The Pend Oreille Mine as noted above has transitioned to care and maintenance operation in late 2019. Non-basic industries are those generated through the spending of income that is earned by local basic industries.

Other factors in the performance of the local and regional economy are: transportation, capital facilities and other infrastructure, distance to markets, and labor skills, training, and education of the workforce.

The information provided by the ESD indicates employment in the County is driven by the trade, services, and government sectors. The County imports some the professional, sales, processing, clerical, and packaging and material handling sectors of the economy. Over one-third of county residents who are wage earners, commute out of county for work.

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3.5.2.2 Land availability and suitability

Industrial site availability is affected by the high rate of public land ownership in Pend Oreille County. Approximately 60% of the land in the county is located within the Colville and Panhandle National Forests, and approximately 5% of the land is owned by the State or County Government. An additional 28% of the land is privately owned Agricultural Open Space, or Designated/Classified Timber. The remainder of the land is comprised mostly of incorporated areas, and private rural parcels and residences. (See Land Use Element for more information.)

Several possible commercial or light industrial sites have been identified in Pend Oreille County, generally located in the Newport area, near Ione, on Kalispel Tribal land directly north of Cusick, and at the Lafarge site at Metaline Falls. Other sites are potentially available for such development, but require a significant amount of preparation before the sites can be available as commercial or light industrial locations. The lack of basic infrastructure services to these sites may be the most significant factor holding back their development.

Deleted: . The Pend Oreille EDC list and the Washington State Department of Commerce have inventories of commercial and light industrial sites.

[9] https://www.ktea.com/about accessed on 1/21/2020

3.5.3 *Recent Study Prepared for the EDC*

In 2018, the EDC commissioned a study. The study focused on the economic impacts from two important industries.

> *Economic Importance of Ponderay Newsprint and Teck Zinc/Lead Mine* - The EDC, commissioned Jeffrey Bell Consulting and Robinson Research to examine all available data regarding Ponderay Newsprint Company (PNC) and Teck Zinc/Lead Mine (Teck) and perform an Economic Impact Analysis on the contribution one or both entities make to the economy of Pend Oreille County. The results are provided in the study report, and give an idea of the magnitude of impacts on key factors, such as jobs, income and tax revenue[10]

3.5.4 *Quality of Life*

Quality of life is a very important component of economic development as provided in the Statement of Values in the preface. Quality of life involves earning a living wage, having adequate housing and dependable transportation, accessing cultural activities, whether the community sees itself in a positive light, and employing community standards that support pleasant views from scenic highways or county roads.

3.5.5 *EDC Strategies*

Pend Oreille County EDC provides a variety of programs and services to support local communities, businesses and other organizations in Pend Oreille County.

a. **Rural Opportunities Loan Fund** program provides term debt financing for start-up and existing businesses in ten counties.
b. **Associated Development Organization** – Pend Oreille County designated the EDC as the agency responsible for implementing the Associated Development program through the Washington State Department of Commerce. Primary responsibilities include business recruitment, expansion and retention, and assisting startup-up businesses.
c. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** is an ongoing effort in the region that brings the public and private sectors together to diversify and strengthen regional economies.

Additionally the EDC is working on an industrial lands inventory, infrastructure needs and opportunities, and marketing materials for supporting additional development of these industrial lands in the County. The EDC focuses on seeing industrial lands are properly zone and prepared for future development opportunities consistent with development regulations.

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[10] http://pocedc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/PendOreilleCountyEDC-EconomicImpactStudy-20180516.pdf

4 Transportation Element

4.1 Overview

Pend Oreille County has experienced modest growth in the past, which is expected to continue in coming years. To effectively and efficiently accommodate this growth in an orderly fashion, Pend Oreille County and local governments have prepared this Transportation Element. This element describes the existing transportation system and addresses the transportation needs for the future.

The Transportation Element describes how the transportation system in Pend Oreille County is designed to facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services now and in the future. In doing so, the Transportation Element balances the needs of the variety of users of the transportation system, such as commuters, retailers, travelers, property owners, schools, businesses, airports, and recreational facilities. In order to realize the most benefit and limit adverse impacts, transportation systems must be thoughtfully planned and coordinated with planned land use patterns and intensities, taking into account regional and local needs in the process.

The Transportation Element reflects the goal of the Pend Oreille Countywide Planning Policy on transportation:

> The existing and future land use pattern shall be supported by a balanced transportation system that promotes the mobility of people and goods with a variety of options. This system shall be cooperatively planned and

constructed between the County, the State, the Kalispel Tribe, and the Municipalities.

4.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that comprehensive plans include a transportation element that implements, and is consistent with the land use element. The Transportation Element shall include the following sub-elements:

a. Land use assumptions used in estimating travel;
b. Facilities and services needs, including;

   i. An inventory of air, water, and ground transportation facilities and services, including transit alignments and general aviation airport facilities, to define existing capital facilities and travel levels as a basis for future planning;
   ii. Level of Service standards for all arterials and transit routes to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system;
   iii. Specific actions and requirements for bringing into compliance any facilities or services that are below an established Level of Service standard;
   iv. Forecasts of traffic for at least 10 years based on the adopted land use plan to provide information on the location, timing, and capacity needs of future growth; and
   v. Identification of system expansion needs and transportation system management needs to meet current and future demands.

c. Finance, including:

   i. An analysis of funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources;
   ii. A multi-year financing plan based on the needs identified in the comprehensive plan, the appropriate parts of which shall serve as the basis for the 6-year street, road, or transit program required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems;
   iii. If probable funding falls short of meeting identified needs, a discussion of how additional funding will be raised, or how land use assumptions will be reassessed to ensure that Level of Service standards will be met;

d. Intergovernmental coordination efforts, including an assessment of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use assumptions on the transportation systems of adjacent jurisdictions; and

4.3 Transportation Goals

Transportation Goal #1: Maintain an efficient, safe, and environmentally responsible road system that supports the *Statement of Values* and the Goals of this Comprehensive Plan.

Transportation Goal #2: Preserve and improve existing facilities.

Transportation Goal #3: Consider safety, cost effectiveness, and environmental impacts when planning to build new roads.

Transportation Goal #4: Construct required transportation improvements concurrent with new land development.

Transportation Goal #5: Keep citizens informed and involved in the planning of facility improvements and new facility construction.

Transportation Goal #6: Participate in regional transportation planning efforts.

4.4 Transportation Policies

In support of the Transportation Goals, the County shall implement the following Transportation Policies:

Transportation Policy #1 Periodically review and update its standards for the design and construction of County roads, including but not limited to consideration of:

a. Features to reduce wildlife hazards;
b. Environmentally responsible design features;
c. Features to minimize impacts on surface and ground water; and
d. Standards for widened shoulders to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles on existing roadways as appropriate.

Transportation Policy #2: When designing and constructing new roads the State, County, and private parties shall:

a. Give priority consideration to public safety;
b. Limit the risk of wildfires;
c. Avoid locating roads in sensitive areas to minimize environmental disruption and construction costs;
d. Attempt to maximize view potentials; and
e. Consider provisions for non-motorized and pedestrian features, including separated pedestrian and bicycle paths.

Transportation Policy #3: Support the construction of passing lanes and turn lanes on State and County roads to address safety concerns and excessive delays.

Transportation Policy #4: The County and the State should provide safe turnouts for disabled vehicles, slow vehicles, and/or scenic viewpoints.

Transportation Policy #5: Consider the restriction/elimination of access points as opportunities arise to improve safety and maintain the capacity of existing arterials.

Transportation Policy #6: Promote in cooperation with the Port of Pend Oreille, the shared use of railroad crossings in an effort to minimize the need for new crossings.

Transportation Policy #7: Retain public road right-of-way to provide an adequate road system, access to private property, accommodate utilities, and access to and view of water bodies.

Transportation Policy #8: Support state and local efforts to provide trail corridors and pedestrian and bicycle paths.

Transportation Policy #9: Promote alternative transportation modes, such as bus, rail, car-pooling, and bicycles.

Transportation Policy #10: Evaluate proposed developments for:

a. Compliance with established Level of Service Standards;
b. Compliance with County Road Design Standards;
c. The safety of motorized and non-motorized travelers; and
d. Acceptable accommodation of emergency vehicles and alternate access options (two-way out options).

Transportation Policy #11: The County Development Code shall include provisions to discourage the siting of incompatible uses adjacent to general aviation airports operated for the benefit of the general public, whether that airport be publicly owned or privately owned for public use. Such regulations shall be adopted only after formal consultation with airport owners and managers, private airport operators, general aviation pilots, ports, and the aviation division of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Transportation Policy #12: In order to protect the public safety consider establishing a permit system for special events and activities that use or impact public rights-of-way.

Transportation Policy # 13: Establish regulations to require new development to mitigate their impacts on County roads.

Transportation Policy #14: Establish a Concurrency Management System to help ensure that transportation improvements, strategies, and actions needed to support new development and to achieve transportation Level of Service standards that will be in place in time to support the developments causing such needs.

Transportation Policy #15: Establish a Composite LOS system with C as the Level of Service standard for County collector arterial roads in accordance with the methodology described in this element.

Transportation Policy #16: Establish and maintain a multi-year financing plan based on the transportation needs and priorities identified in the comprehensive plan. Transportation funds shall be allocated in the following order of priority:

a. Debt service;
b. Maintenance of existing County transportation facilities; and
c. Engineering and construction of improvements to the County transportation system.

Transportation Policy #17: Priority consideration should be given to the construction of all-weather road surfaces and improvements that will minimize seasonal road restrictions.

4.5 Existing Conditions

The primary objective of this section of the report is to assess existing transportation conditions within Pend Oreille County. The following categories of information are included:

- Streets and Roadways
  - State Highways;
  - Street and Road Conditions;
  - Bridge Condition;
  - Lane Configuration;
  - Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes;
  - Traffic Volumes;
  - Heavy Vehicles;
  - Traffic Control Devices;
  - Speed Limit Designation;
  - Roadway Operation; and
  - Traffic Safety.
- Non-motorized Transportation
  - Bicycle Paths;
  - Pedestrian Paths;
  - Equestrian Paths; and

- Trail system.
- Rail

4.5.1 Streets and Roadways

The streets and roadways within the County are primarily divided between State, County, and Cities. This Section will discuss State and County facilities. Figure 4-1 depicts the State Highways and major County roads.

4.5.1.1 State Highways

The Pend Oreille County transportation system relies heavily on US Route 2 and State Routes (SR) 20, 31, and 211, which link the communities and towns together and to outside areas.

US 2, a roadway on the National Highway System, traverses from northern Spokane County to the City of Newport, then it turns east into the State of Idaho. Within the County, US 2 is a rural four-lane roadway from the southern County line to SR 211 and then a two-lane highway to the City of Newport. The AADT ranges from 5,000 to 10,000 vehicles per day within this 18-mile segment. Within the City of Newport, US 2 is a two-lane couplet with AADT ranging from 10,000 to 11,500 vehicles per day.

SR 20 traverses from west to east, beginning at the border with Stevens County and turns south at Tiger Junction, and then follows the Pend Oreille River to the City of Newport, where it joins US 2. SR 20 is mostly a rural two-lane highway. The AADT for the 46-mile segment between Tiger Junction and the City of Newport ranges from 1,200 to 3,200 vehicles per day.

SR 31 begins at the Canadian border and runs south for 27 miles where it terminates at Tiger Junction and joins SR 20. SR 31 is a rural two-lane highway with an AADT ranging from 190 to 2,000 vehicles per day.

SR 211 is a 14-mile roadway connecting US 2 on the south and SR 20 on the north near the community of Usk. The route bypasses the City of Newport and provides a more direct route to the northern portion of the County for those entering or leaving Spokane County. SR 211 is a rural two-lane highway with the AADT ranging from 1,400 to 2,000 vehicles per day.

In 1998, Highways of Statewide Significance (HSS) legislation was passed by the Washington State Legislature and codified as RCW 47.06.140. Highways of Statewide Significance are those facilities deemed to provide and support transportation functions that promote and maintain significant statewide travel and economic linkages. (Washington State Transportation Commission; WSTC 2004) The legislation emphasizes that these significant facilities should be planned from a statewide perspective. Local jurisdictions are to assess the effects of local land use plans upon state facilities,

based on LOS standards adopted for State highways. Within the County, US 2 and SR 20 are designated as HSS.

4.5.1.2 Street and Road Condition

Local roads generally serve as access from land uses to the collector and arterial street system. A common attribute of local roads in both urban and rural areas is their low traffic volume and low speeds. Lane widths can be 9 to 11 feet for low speeds and volumes. The basic components of the county's transportation system are sound and in reasonably good condition. This assessment is based on Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) survey data, County survey data, and windshield observation by Jones and Stokes staff. There is adequate, and in most cases, ample capacity available, and the transportation system connects most origins and destinations well. An inventory of major County roadways and their conditions, such as functional classification, pavement type, pavement width, number of lanes, and shoulder type and width, are maintained in the County GIS system.

4.5.1.3 Bridge Condition

Table 4-1 lists the State-owned bridges in Pend Oreille County. This list was obtained from the WSDOT Bridge and Structure Office (WSDOT 2002a). County-owned bridges are shown in Table 4-2.

Table 4-1
Pend Oreille County Bridge Inventory (State-Owned Bridges)

SR #	Bridge #	Bridge Crossing Name	MP	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Span Type
20	20/905	Lost Creek	395.80	> 20	64	TTT
20	20/908	South Fork Lost Creek	395.90	> 20	68	PCTB
20	20/911	Ruby Creek	400.19	> 20	135	PCTB
20	20/914	Pend Oreille Valley Railroad Undercrossing (CMSTPP)	405.96	> 20	120	SB TTT
20	20/917	Tacoma Creek	515.37	> 20	104	CS
20	20/918	Calispell Creek Bridge	418.93	> 20	281	PCTB
20	20/919.25	Cattle Pass	419.62	> 20	9	TCULV
20	20/924	Davis Creek	423.75	> 20	77	TTT
31	31/33	Cedar Creek	4.15	> 20	147	CTB
31	31/36	Pend Oreille River Metaline Falls	14.07	> 20	696	ST CTB
31	31/38	Sullivan Creek	14.79	> 20	182	CTB
31	31/42	Slate Creek	21.04	> 20	216	SG SB

Source: Bridge List (WSDOT 2002)
Span Type: CS = Concrete Slab; CTB = Concrete T-Beam; PCTB = Pre-Tensioned Concrete T-Beam; SB = Steel Beam; SG = Steel Girder; ST = Steel Truss; TCULV = Timber Culvert; TTT = Creosote Treated Timber Tres

Table 4-2
Pend Oreille County Bridge Inventory (County-Owned Bridges)

Road Name	Bridge #	Bridge Crossing Name	MP	Width (ft)	# of Lanes	Length (ft)
Middle Fork Rd	2022	North Fork Calispell Creek	3.15	14	1	27
Calicoma Rd	2373	Calicoma	0.08	26	2	26
Tacoma Creek Rd	2389	Tacoma Creek Bridge	4.32	14	1	23
Rocky Cr Rd	2630	Moose Drool	1.5	14	1	25
Rocky Cr Rd	2630	Scape-Goat	2.1	14	1	21
Rocky Cr Rd	2630	Mountain Mauler	2.5	14	1	15
Greenhouse Rd	2702	Big Muddy Creek Bridge	1.03	26	2	20
Cedar Creek Rd	2705	Cedar Creek Bridge	0.00	26	2	28
Smackout Pass Rd	2714	Little Muddy Creek Bridge	2.27	14	1	23
Kings Lake Rd	3389	Usk Bridge	0.70	26	2	2,281
LeClerc Creek Rd	3500	East Branch LeClerc Creek #1	0.88	28	2	38
W Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3503	West Branch LeClerc Creek #1	1.01	28	2	79
W Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3503	West Branch LeClerc Creek #2	3.60	14	1	31
W Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3503	West Branch LeClerc Creek #3	5.04	14	1	31
E Branch LeClerc Creek Rd	3521	East Branch LeClerc Creek	3.37	14	1	18
Fertile Valley Rd	9111	Sacheen Lake	2.50	26	2	104
McKenzie Rd	9216	McKenzie	2.00	26	2	96
LeClerc Rd N	9325	LeClerc Creek	16.30	26	2	63
LeClerc Rd N	9325	Mill Creek	13.30	32	2	34
LeClerc Rd N	9325	CCA Creek	4.93	32	2	24
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Ione Bridge	0.30	26	2	830
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Harvey Creek Bridge	6.70	26	2	34
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Sullivan Lake Inlet	9.18	19	1	78
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Sullivan Lake Outlet	12.35	32	2	192
Sullivan Lake Rd	9345	Mill Meadow	13.00	32	2	164

Source: Pend Oreille County 2004

4.5.1.4 Lane Configuration

The traveled way is that portion of the roadway reserved for traffic and is generally composed of two or more designated lanes. Widths of lanes and resulting traveled way are a function of design speed, vehicle classification, and safety and operational considerations. Lane widths can range from 9 to 13 feet, but are usually 11 or 12 feet in width. Roads within Pend Oreille County in most places contain two lanes.

4.5.1.5 Heavy Vehicles

Heavy vehicles include trucks used to transport freight and goods, and recreational vehicles. Because the study area is heavily influenced by the timber and agriculture industries, the freight and goods movements associated with those industries result in higher than normal truck percentages on some of the area's roadways. Heavy vehicles are usually slower moving and have longer and wider wheel base dimensions than the older roads were designed to accommodate. These vehicles are frequently prohibited from using the County road system during thaw conditions each spring to avoid deterioration of the roads. Recreational vehicle travel on the County's roads is seasonal but must be considered in long-range circulation planning. Primary routes for recreational vehicles include US 2, SR 20, SR 31, and SR 211.

4.5.1.6 Roadway Operations

Level of Service (LOS) is the primary measure used to determine the operating condition of a roadway segment. Highway Capacity Manual (Transportation Research Board 2000) procedures were used to measure transportation facility performance. Using the Highway Capacity Manual procedures, the quality of traffic operation is graded into one of six LOS designations: A, B, C, D, E, or F. LOS A and B represent the best traffic operation. LOS C and D represent intermediate operation, and LOS E and F represent high levels of traffic congestion.

Table 4-3
Level of Service Criteria for Two-Lane Highways

LOS	Class I Highway		Class II Highway
	Average Time Spent Following Another Vehicle (percent)	Average Travel Speed (miles/hour)	Average Time Spent Following Another Vehicle (percent)
A	≤ 35	> 55	≤ 40
B	> 35 – 50	> 50 – 55	> 40 – 55
C	> 50 – 65	> 45 – 50	> 55 – 70
D	> 65 – 80	> 40 – 45	> 70 – 85
E	> 80	≤ 40	> 85
F	Applies whenever the flow rate exceeds the segment capacity		

Source: Highway Capacity Manual (TRB 2000)

The posted speed on state routes, outside city limits, is 60 mph on SR 2 and 55 mph on all other state routes. The speed limit on most county roads is 25 mph to 50 mph based on the above factors.

4.5.1.7 Traffic Safety

One of the goals of a transportation system is to move people and goods in a safe and efficient manner. Maximizing the safety of the roadway system is the primary objective of design in all cases; an important component of evaluating existing transportation conditions is traffic safety.

4.5.1.8 Scenic Byways

The State has designated SR 31 from SR 20 to the Canadian Border as a Scenic Byway. Scenic Byway designation is based on scenic, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and archaeological qualities. Designated roads are eligible for special grant programs to provide pullouts and other amenities. SR 31 and SR 20 are also part of a International Byway designated the Selkirk Loop. This byway loops through Pend Oreille County, northern Idaho on US 2 and US 95 and then through southern Canada.

4.5.2 Non-motorized Transportation

Non-motorized facilities in the County are somewhat limited. Pathways and sidewalks are provided only at limited locations within city limits and in the immediate vicinity of the larger urban areas. In recent years, the awareness of the potential for non-motorized (pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian) transportation routes for recreational purposes and non-recreational purposes has increased throughout the nation and within the County. The County has a fund established that supports the development of paths and trails, but the fund is limited and could benefit from additional guidance on spending priorities.

4.5.2.1 Bicycle Paths

Bicycle facilities should serve to connect attractions and resources such as schools, commercial areas, employment centers, and recreational facilities. U.S. Bicycle Route 10 follows HWY 20 after intersecting with US 2 (and Le Clerc Road is alternate route) through Pend Oreille County.

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Recreational bicycling is popular in Pend Oreille County. Many of the popular routes have limited or no shoulders to safely accommodate bicyclists. In addition, many of the routes also have large segments with limited sight distance. There are two exceptions within the County. The first is a bicycle/pedestrian path that starts at the Cusick Boat Launch and heads south along River Road, ending just north of King's Lake Road. The second bicycle path is a striped lane on LeClerc Road North from the Usk Bridge to the Kalispel Tribe Community Center. The second bicycle path has both separated and non-separated portions to it. Lastly a National Bikeway has been identified, the Golden Tiger Trail, along Highway 20 from Stevens County to State Highway 31 and north to Ione and then south along Le Clerc Road to the Idaho border.

4.5.2.2 Pedestrian Paths

Improvements to enhance pedestrian mobility and safety are based on issues raised by the public. Improvements include constructing new crosswalks, pedestrian bridges, sidewalks, and paths, and

widening existing shoulders. Pedestrian improvements are most effective where pedestrian concentrations are greatest, such as within commercial business areas, and around schools and recreational areas. Most walking takes place on County road shoulders.

4.5.2.3 Equestrian Paths

The only designated equestrian trails outside of state and/or federal parks, are in the County Park. There is an equestrian trail, the Rustlers Gulch County park connector trail.

4.5.2.4 Trail System

A good deal of riding and hiking takes place throughout the County along road rights-of-way and in other areas where a trail is not guaranteed to the user. Designated trails outside federally owned land in Pend Oreille County are almost nonexistent, with the exception of a few private routes and routes along existing roads that have been so designated by tourist information but which have not been developed to provide for bicycles, horses, or pedestrians. Support efforts to maintain existing trails such as the Sweet Creek Trail and other trails, and their associated facilities.

4.5.2.5 Pend Oreille River Water Trail

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail covers 70 miles of the Pend Oreille River. The Water Trail begins in Oldtown, ID, then follows the river north through Pend Oreille County, in Northeastern Washington, all the way up to Boundary Dam, just one mile shy of Southeastern British Columbia, Canada. The water trail offers small boat recreationalists and paddlers the opportunity to travel a designated route along a river by providing access areas, environmental and historical points of interests, relaxing picnic stops, and overnight campsites.

4.5.3 Rail

The Port of Pend Oreille owns and operates the Pend Oreille Valley Railroad (POVA) and repair facilities for locomotives and rail cars. The railroad extends from Usk to Newport, along which the right-of-way varies in width from 50 feet to more than 250 feet each side of the centerline. The tracks north of Usk are closed to rail traffic. POVA operates over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) line between Newport, Washington and Dover, Idaho and has operating rights from Dover, Idaho to Sandpoint, Idaho in order to interchange cars with the BNSF.

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4.5.4 Airports

The Ione Municipal Airport is in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS). Participation in the NPIAS is limited to public use airports that meet specific FAA activity criteria. NPIAS airports are eligible for federal funding of improvements through FAA programs such as the current Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Ione Municipal is the only NPIAS airport in Pend Oreille County and it is the only paved and lighted airport in the county that is open year-round.

The County and the Town of Ione have partnered in the creation of the Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB). The JAZB has created and adopted a zoning overlay to maintain airspace requirements. A grass airstrip also exists at the north end of Sullivan Lake, which is owned and maintained by the US Forest Service.

4.6 Traffic and Level of Service

4.6.1 Introduction

The adequacy of the transportation system is based on the use of established level of service measures to analyze current and future anticipated growth. The following sections describe the methodology for forecasting future growth, typical measures of level of service, and propose new measures for Pend Oreille County. The need for future roadway improvements can be quantified, in part, by examining the results of this effort.

The following categories of traffic study are discussed in this section:

- Existing traffic;
- Functional classification system;
- Existing Level of Service;
- Traffic forecasts;
- Level of Service forecasts; and
- County road priority.

4.6.2 Existing Traffic

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) was furnished by the WSDOT for state routes and by Pend Oreille County for County roads. These traffic volumes are required to form the basis for the Level of Service (LOS) analysis, and traffic forecast. Traffic demand on roads in Pend Oreille County varies from fewer than 100 vehicles on local roads to as many as 2,080 vehicles per day for the year 2012. Traffic demand on state routes in the County varies from a low of 250 vehicles in the northern most part of the County to as high as 8,600 vehicles per day around Newport[11]. Traffic volume dictates the type of roadway to be provided. Typically, roads are categorized into functional classes to aid the funding review process.

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An inventory of the arterial streets, county roads, and state routes in Pend Oreille County provides a basis for the description of the existing transportation system. Existing Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on the major street network were assimilated in order to calculate the LOS of traffic operations. The assessment of existing traffic conditions and identification of planned transportation improvement

[11] https://www.wsdot.wa.gov/data/tools/geoportal/?config=traffic, accessed on December 31, 2019.

projects provide the quantitative and qualitative measures used in the development of recommended transportation improvements.

4.6.3 Functional Classification System

Classification of streets and highways in the State of Washington is based upon guidelines prepared by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Streets are classified based on the degree to which they provide through movement and land access functions. Specific criteria defining streets include the following:

- Character and relative length of trips;
- Anticipated or projected traffic volume; and
- Relationship of a street to the land use it serves.

Each local jurisdiction is responsible for defining its transportation system into specific functional classifications. Pend Oreille County has those functional classifications below:

Principal Arterial: (02 Rural Principal) – Streets and highways that contain the greatest portion of through or long distance travel. Such facilities serve the high volume travel corridors that connect the major generators of traffic. The selected routes provide an integrated system for complete circulation of traffic, including ties to the major rural highways entering the urban area. Within Pend Oreille County, only US 2 is designated a Principal Arterial.

Minor Arterial: (06 Rural Minor) – Streets and highways that connect principal arterials with the arterial and collector roads that extend into urban and rural areas. Minor arterial streets and highways serve less concentrated traffic generating areas such as small communities, neighborhood shopping centers, and schools. Although the predominant function of minor arterial streets is the movement of through traffic, they also provide for considerable local traffic that originates or is destined to points along the corridor. Within Pend Oreille County, SR 211, SR 20, and SR 31 are the only designated Minor Arterials.

Major Collector: (07 Rural Major Collector) – These routes should provide service to the county seat if not on a state route, to larger towns not directly served by the state route systems, and to other traffic generators of equivalent inter-county importance, such as consolidated schools, shipping points, county parks, and important agricultural areas. In addition, these routes should link larger towns and/or cities with state routes, and should serve the more important inter-county travel corridors.

Minor Collector: (08 Rural Minor Collector) – These routes should be spaced at intervals consistent with population density, collect traffic from local roads, and bring all developed areas within a reasonable distance of a collector road. In addition, these routes should provide service to the

remaining smaller communities and link the locally important traffic generators with their rural hinterlands.

Local Access Road: (09 Rural Unclassified) – Streets not selected for inclusion in the arterial or collector classes. They allow access to individual homes, shops, and similar traffic destinations. Direct access to abutting land is essential, because all traffic originates from or is destined to abutting land. Through traffic should be discouraged by appropriate geometric design and/or traffic control devices.

Deleted: Table 4-6 summarizes the lengths of the County transportation system by functional classifications. The County roadways classified as major and minor Collectors are analyzed in this Plan. ¶
Table 4-6
County Transportation System Summary¶
Functional Classification ...

4.6.4 Existing Level of Service

The roadway Level of Service (LOS) is the fundamental description of traffic congestion and serves as a basis for road, street, and intersection design. As a result of the requirement of the Growth Management Act (GMA), LOS standards are set by regulatory agencies as a threshold measurement. If the traffic impacts of a development exceed this LOS threshold, the developer is required to mitigate those impacts by helping to provide improvements such as streets and/or other infrastructure, transportation demand management programs to reduce single occupant vehicles, and transit and non-motorized alternatives. This mitigation is the fundamental basis of the GMA concurrency requirement that links land use development and transportation facilities.

The LOS standard utilized by the County is consistent with LOS standards adopted by the communities of Pend Oreille County and by the North East Washington Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NEW RTPO).

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4.6.5 Level of Service Analysis

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Consistent with GMA, the County follows LOS as the standard of operating efficiency for the County-owned and maintained collectors and arterials within the County transportation service system. Through the use of LOS ratings, the County characterizes the quality of service provided by roadways. The LOS standards in this Plan will be maintained through upkeep of the existing circulation system and expansion of transportation services where needed.

4.6.6 Capacity-based Level of Service

For this Plan, the County is using a capacity-based system of establishing LOS. For County roads, the LOS analysis is based on the ratio of volume to capacity. For State and Federal routes, the LOS analysis is based on generalized daily traffic volumes. The County has applied an "A" through "F" LOS standard (DOT 2017[12]) as the minimum criteria for the quality of service provided at peak hours and

[12] DOT (U.S. Department of Transportation), 2017. *Simplified Highway Capacity Calculation Method for the Highway Performance Monitoring System*. Sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. Performed by Cambridge Systematics, Inc. October 2017.

average daily conditions for roadway segments on all arterials and collectors, as shown in Table 82.1A-1.

Table 4-4
Level of Service Volume to Capacity Ratios

LOS Category	Volume to Capacity (V/C)	Description
A	V/C<0.60	Primarily free-flow traffic operations at average travel speeds. Vehicles are completely unimpeded in their ability to maneuver within the traffic stream. Stopped delays at intersections are minimal.
B	0.60<V/C<0.70	Reasonably unimpeded stable traffic flow operations at average travel speeds. The ability to maneuver within the traffic stream is only slightly restricted and stopped delays are not bothersome. Drivers are not generally subjected to appreciable tensions.
C	0.70<V/C<0.80	Stable traffic flow operations. However, ability to maneuver and change lanes may be more restricted than in LOS "B", and longer queues or adverse signal coordination may contribute to lower average travel speeds. Motorists will experience appreciable tension while driving.
D	0.80<V/C<0.90	Small increases in traffic flow may cause substantial increases in approach delays, and hence, decreases in speed. This may be due to adverse signal progression, inappropriate signal timing, high volumes, or some combination of these. High density traffic restricts maneuverability.
E	0.90<V/C<1.0	Unstable traffic flow. Significant delays in traffic flow operations and lower operating speeds. Conditions are caused by some combination of adverse progression, high signal density, extensive queuing at critical intersections, and inappropriate signal timing. Considerable delay, volume at or near capacity. Freedom to maneuver is extremely difficult.
F	V/C>1.0	Traffic flow operations at extremely low speeds. Intersection congestion is likely at critical signalized locations, with high approach delays resulting. Adverse signal progression is frequently a contributor to this condition. Very low speeds, volumes exceed capacity, long delays.

Pend Oreille County's selected LOS is "C" in rural areas and "D" within UGAs. When a roadway meets a LOS "C" standard, it means that the streams of traffic flow remain uninterrupted, even at peak hours, by congestion or delays related to traffic volume and road configuration.

County land uses are primarily rural and agricultural, and such uses typically generate new traffic demands gradually. An evaluation of LOS for all County major collectors and arterials was conducted by evaluating existing and future volume estimates (through 2030).

On County roads with relatively light traffic volumes, a simple comparison of traffic counts to a generalized capacity was used to evaluate LOS. Existing traffic counts (2012) were obtained from Pend Oreille County Public Works, and then projected to 2018 and 2030 based on annual growth rates. The ratio of existing and projected traffic volume to vehicle capacity was then used to

determine LOS. The LOS for each of the roads evaluated was determined for both existing and future volumes to be at or above a "C" level—efficient flow of traffic without delays. No new major increases in traffic generators from new localized sources were identified as part of this evaluation. Table 4-5 shows the current volumes of traffic over major and minor collectors, and the 2018 escalated and 2030 projected traffic volumes for each collector. The LOS for each of these roads has been determined to be acceptable, with all roads at an "A" level.

While travel historically increases at a greater rate than population, population is still a good indicator of overall growth in rural areas. Through trips are anticipated to grow faster than local trips, but most of the long-distance through trips would be on state routes. Population forecasts project a .3% annual growth rate. Overall, it was decided that a .5% per year growth is appropriate for county roads. As noted in Section 2.5.6.3, roughly 75% of the total County population increase is expected to occur in rural areas, with the majority of the 285 households projected by 2039 likely locating in the southern half of the County. Even with this higher concentration of growth expected in the southern part of the County, LOS is expected to remain at acceptable levels.

The projected 2025 and 2030 average daily traffic (ADT) for County arterials is summarized in Table 4-5, based on the last conducted road ADT volume counts, which occurred in 2012. The table shows the highest ADT volumes of each County Collector. The projected 2030 ADT on County roadways varies from a low of 111 vehicles to as high as 2,320 vehicles per day.

The conventional LOS analysis concludes there are no additionally capacity needs for roadway improvements, while the citizens of the County and the local government recognize the need for functional improvements on some sections of the roadway system. These improvement needs may take the form of street or road widening to meet standards, resurfacing to improve comfort, passing lanes to address seasonal RVs and trucks, spot safety improvements, and/or adding traffic control devices, as characterized in the County's most recent 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan, along with maintenance needs further described below.

Table 4-5
2030 Average Daily Traffic Projections on County Roads

Road Number	Road Name	Vehicle Capacity[1]	Current AADT[2]	2019 V/C Ratio	2018 LOS	2030 AADT[3]	2030 V/C Ratio	2030 LOS
93050	Leclerc Rd S	10,200	2,196	0.22	A	2,320	0.23	A
33890	5th St (Usk)	10,200	1,734	0.17	A	1,832	0.18	A
91320	Northshore Diamond Lake Rd	10,200	1,258	0.12	A	1,329	0.13	A
91440	Southshore Diamond Lake Rd	10,200	1,180	0.12	A	1,247	0.12	A
93250	Leclerc Rd N	10,200	1,073	0.11	A	1,133	0.11	A
91600	Deer Valley Rd	10,200	1,103	0.11	A	1,165	0.11	A
16651	Scotia Rd E	10,200	1,028	0.10	A	1,086	0.11	A
15750	Spring Valley Rd	10,200	1,004	0.10	A	1,061	0.10	A
18890	Coyote Trail	10,200	632	0.06	A	668	0.07	A
92050	Westside Calispel Rd	10,200	557	0.05	A	589	0.06	A
92160	Mckenzie Rd	10,200	553	0.05	A	584	0.06	A
93450	Sullivan Lake Rd	10,200	492	0.05	A	520	0.05	A
91230	Camden Rd	10,200	480	0.05	A	508	0.05	A
21100	Flowery Trail	10,200	369	0.04	A	390	0.04	A
30290	Bead Lake Rd	10,200	379	0.04	A	401	0.04	A
91110	Fertile Valley Rd	10,200	316	0.03	A	334	0.03	A
19030	Gray Rd	10,200	311	0.03	A	328	0.03	A
92360	Cusick Meadow Rd	10,200	273	0.03	A	288	0.03	A
27140	Smackout Pass Rd	10,200	211	0.02	A	223	0.02	A
29750	Boundary Rd	10,200	211	0.02	A	223	0.02	A
26950	Meadow Road	10,200	105	0.01	A	111	0.01	A
10030	Horseshoe Lake Rd.	10,200	105	0.01	A	111	0.01	A
18750	McCloud Creek Rd	10,200	105	0.01	A	111	0.01	A

Notes:
1. Derived from The U.S. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of Science *Highway Capacity Manual (2000)* standards; adjusted based on institutional knowledge of County road characteristics provided by Public Works.
2. Based on the annual average daily traffic for the road segment, escalated from 2012 through 2019 at 0.75%.
3. Based on .5% annual rate of increase.

4.6.7 Level of Service on State-Owned Facilities

The LOS for regional highways, including state roadways, is set through a coordinated process through the Tri-County Economic Development District (TEDD)—the County's regional transportation planning organization—along with state, regional, and local input. The LOS for highways of statewide significance is set by the State in consultation with local jurisdictions, with the State having final authority to establish LOS and associated state and federal expenditures on the system. The LOS standard utilized for state highways in Pend Oreille County is "C".

For State and Federal routes, actual traffic counts were obtained from WSDOT, projected to 2030, based upon an estimated annual growth rate, and assigned LOS using generalized traffic volume tables[13]. Because the traffic volumes are so low along these State routes a small change, less than

[13] State of Florida Department of Transportation, 2013. *Quality/Level of Service Handbook*. 2013.

100 vehicles, will result in an annual rate of 1% over a several year period. Because the County may see a slight increase in recreational traffic over the next 20 years and population growth is projected at less than 1% per year, an annual growth rate of 1% per year for all State routes was used. Table 4-6 shows the current volumes of state roadways and the 10-year projected traffic volumes for each state route segment. All state highway segments will function with acceptable Levels of Service with the overall system anticipated to perform at LOS "A", "B", or "C".

Table 4-6
2030 Average Daily Traffic Projections on State Routes

Route	Segment[1]	LOS Standard[2]	AADT 2018[3]	2018 LOS[4]	AADT 2030[5]	2030 LOS
US 2	County line to SR 211	C	7,500	B	8,451	C
US 2	SR 211 to Newport	C	6,500	B	7,324	B
SR 211	US 2 to HWY 20	C	2,000	A	2,254	A
SR 20	Newport to SR 211	C	2,400	A	2,704	A
SR 20	SR 211 to Cusick/Usk	C	2,200	A	2,479	A
SR 20	Cusick/Usk to SR 31	C	1,200	A	1,352	A
SR 20	From SR 31 to West County border	C	470	A	1,803	A
SR 31	SR 20 to Ione	C	1,600	A	1,465	A
SR 31	Ione to Metaline Falls	C	1,300	A	372	A
SR 31	Metaline Falls to Canadian Border	C	330	A	0	A

Notes:
1. Road segments were divided at UGAs, cities, and popular intersections.
2. LOS Standard was developed by WSDOT to evaluate impacts to state transportation facilities.
3. Based on the max annual average daily traffic (AADT) for the road segment.
4. LOS was identified using generalized daily volumes and levels of service for rural highways. This information was provided by WSDOT and is based on the 2012 *Florida Department of Transportation Quality/ Level of Service Handbook* , Table 3.
5. Calculated based on 1% annual rate of increase for road segments.

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4.6.8 Projected Level of Service Conclusions

Transportation elements of GMA comprehensive plans must include an identification of current and forecast needs, and a financial analysis of how identified needs might be addressed concerning the regional transportation system, including state highways. The County compared the growth assumptions in the LOS methodologies with expected growth areas and population growth rate projections from the Land Use Element of the Plan. As shown in Tables 4-5 and 4-6, transportation networks within the County will be able to accommodate the anticipated growth at acceptable LOS.

4.7 Planned Improvements and Financing

4.7.1 County Six-year Road Program

The County 6-Year Road Program (adopted by reference and updated annually) is the County's principal directive for "near term" capital expenditures to carry out the adopted Transportation element as it relates to the construction of new facilities and preservation of existing corridors. The program is updated annually by the County Public Works Department with each update approved by the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the program is to correlate funding sources to needed improvements and identify projects for dedicated revenues. It enables long range decision-making, helps assure the continuity of Commissioner goals and objectives, and helps to identify the impacts in future years of decisions made currently. It also identifies existing and future revenues, revenue sources, maintenance and operating costs, expenditure categories, and improvements for the transportation system.

The "condition" of roadways is also monitored to assess their surface and bed condition and to indicate where the condition of a road is not sufficient to carry existing and projected volumes, as well as the volumes that would occur at the designated LOS. These data are also factored into the Six-year Road Program.

Funding Sources – Projects included within the Road Program must have identified sources of funding. Under GMA, projects necessary to maintain designated LOS are a priority. A variety of local, state, and federal funding supports the Road Program, with a primary revenue source being the County Road Fund.

4.7.2 Paths and Trails

In recent years, the County has placed increased emphasis on providing paths and trails as non-motorized travel routes for both commuting and recreation. There is growing citizen interest in bicycling, walking, running, and equestrian trails that connect activity centers.

Funding Sources – RCW 47.30 requires cities and counties to allocate one-half of one percent of the amount of funds received from the motor vehicle fund for trails and paths. In order to spend these funds on the construction of a trail or path, the trail or path must be included in a comprehensive trail plan adopted by the governing body. Additional planning and construction funds are available through various state and federal grants.

4.7.3 Concurrency - Pay As We Go

Under GMA, service capacity for a new project is supposed to be available "concurrent" with the approval of a new project, or when the project is occupied. This requirement for concurrency is intended to prevent existing residents from having to pay for new capital projects to serve new

development. Concurrency is designed to prevent large deficits in capacity by adding capacity as growth occurs, instead of letting it build up.

Pend Oreille County reviews traffic volume and other information periodically and incorporates this information into updates to the Six-year Road Program. Accordingly, planning and funding of capital projects necessary to meet projected demands can occur in advance, or "concurrently" with the demands. The program is designed to make a variety of improvements to the road network during the planning period to address incremental growth and other needs, as described previously.

Additionally, the principal mechanism for the review and mitigation of new development impacts on designated LOS for local streets, roads, and state highways, is the County's Environmental Policy (SEPA regulation). Projects that are not "categorically exempt" from SEPA review will address traffic impacts as applicable. Projects that are categorically exempt are generally de minimis relative to traffic generation.

4.7.4 County Gravel Road Maintenance Needs

The County maintains extensive maintenance records. A recent review of these records shows the Counties functionally classified 07 Roads (see Section 4.6.3 for description of the Functional Classification System), are in relatively good condition.

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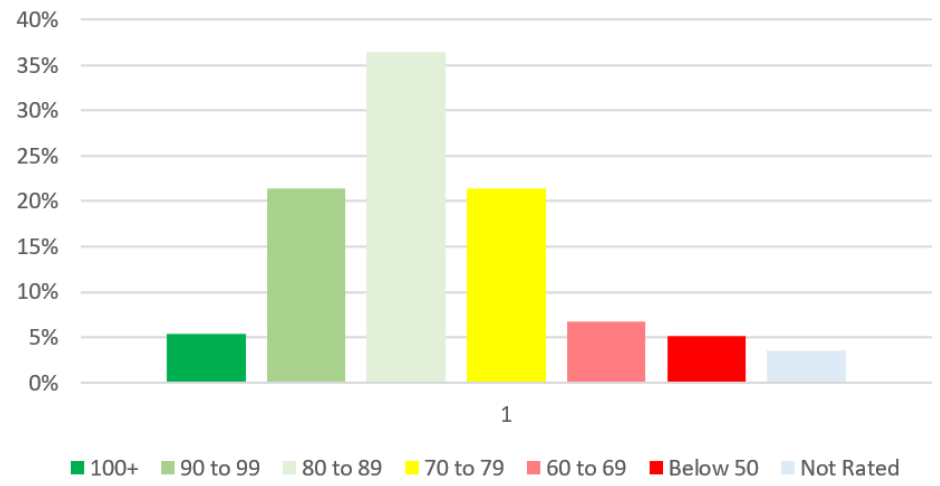
Figure 4-1
Bituminous Surface Treatment of Roads in Pend Oreille County



Of the roads rated 79 or below, all of the 07 roads (Rural Major Collectors) have projects with funding within the next two years.

However, the County is lacking funding for the 08 (Rural Minor Collector) and 09 (Rural Unclassified) roads. The County currently spends 250,000 per year to maintain these lower level roads. It has been determined by the County that, while these roads will meet the LOS for the forecasted time period, an additional $250,000 per year will likely be needed to maintain a 10-year rotation and avoid a future spike in road improvements costs. This includes costs to replace and maintain our gravel roads. The County's gravel roads have received little or no new gravel during the past 10 years. Studies have shown that gravel roads lose between 2 to 3 % of their gravel each year.

4.7.5 Local Road Safety Plan

The County updated the Local Road Safety Plan in 2019 to help with identifying and prioritizing safety improvements based upon County road and collision data. The plan identifies roadway safety improvements that when implemented can help to reduce fatal and injury collisions throughout the County. Improvements include installing Carsonite posts with reflectors, guard rails and signage identifying curve warnings and speed reductions in selected areas This plan, and future updates, are adopted by reference into the County Comprehensive Plan.

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<#>Several findings and/or conclusions can be drawn from the analysis of the development of the traffic and LOS forecasts:¶
<#>The historical average population growth rate in Pend Oreille County has been low. Traffic generated by the residents of the County can be expected to generally follow the growth of the population. Historically, however, traffic has grown somewhat faster than population, reflecting such factors as an increase in vehicle ownership, more recreational travel to the County, and longer-distance trips. ¶
<#>Congestion is generally not a problem in Pend Oreille County. Within and adjacent to towns there are isolated congestion problems that should be addressed specifically. Seasonal congestion issues on recreational and through routes should also be addressed as transportation deficiencies.¶
<#>Additional resources of approximately $250,000 per year is needed to maintain County gravel roads to avoid higher future road maintenance and reconstruction costs.¶

5 Housing Element

5.1 Overview

The Housing element is integrated with the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. A full understanding of the County's housing policy and plans should include a study of these elements. The Housing element includes goals and policies for preservation, improvement, and development of housing, an inventory and analysis of existing housing, and projected housing needs within the County.

5.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA), at RCW 36.70A.020, includes this specific goal:

- Housing. Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.

The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.070 (2)) also requires that the comprehensive plan include a housing element that addresses housing needs and sufficiency of land for all economic segments of the community. The Growth Management Act requires that the housing element contain at least the following features:

- An inventory and analysis of existing and projected housing needs;
- A statement of the goals, policies, and objectives for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing;

- Identification of sufficient land for housing, including, but not limited to, government-assisted housing, housing for low-income families, manufactured housing, multifamily housing, and group homes and foster care facilities; and
- Adequate provisions for existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community.

5.3 Housing Goals

Housing Goal #1: Encourage opportunities for adequate and variety of housing for all economic segments of the County.

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5.4 Housing Policies

In support of the Housing Goal, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Housing Policies:

Housing Policy #1: Encourage a mixed housing inventory to meet the needs of all income levels within the County.

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Housing Policy #2: Pend Oreille County, in conjunction with the incorporated cities and towns, should encourage infill housing where infrastructure is already available and major employment centers and public services are reasonably accessible.

Housing Policy #3: Maintain the County's existing housing stocks and residential character.

Housing Policy #4: Regard residential structures occupied by group care for children the same as a residential structure.

Housing Policy #5: Allow residential structures to be occupied by persons with disabilities in compliance with the ADA.

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Housing Policy #6: Encourage the development of a variety of affordable housing types.

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Housing Policy #7: The Pend Oreille County Development Code should allow accessory dwelling units in single-family homes.

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Housing Policy #8: Allow the conversion of cabins and vacation homes into permanent residences consistent within adopted building codes.

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Housing Policy #9: In partnership with local fire districts, make information available regarding the benefits of residential indoor sprinkler systems and applying fire risk reduction principles on rural properties, including properties located in urban-wildland interface areas.

Housing Policy #10: Support local efforts to maintain existing and provide new multi-family housing opportunities in urban areas where necessary services already exist or can reasonably be provided.

Housing Policy #11: Allow and regulate manufactured homes in the same way as site-built homes.

Housing Policy #12: Keep plan provisions for the location of rural residential development consistent with preserving agricultural lands, forested lands and environmentally sensitive areas, and maintaining the rural lifestyles of the County while also minimizing adverse impacts to commercial agricultural activities.

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5.5 Existing Conditions

This section describes the existing housing, population, and employment conditions in Pend Oreille County. Population statistics, household characteristics and housing stock data is based on Census 2017 ACS (American Community Survey) data. It is the most up-to-date information for the County as a whole. Information is primarily presented for the County, however some relevant data is provided for the incorporated cities within the County as well. It is important to note however, that additional data gathering and analysis will need to be done over time to assess the impact on the housing market through the influx of retirees moving into the community.

5.5.1 Households

5.5.1.1 Existing Households

According to the 2017 ACS Census data, average household size in the County is lower in owner occupied units than in renter occupied units. In the unincorporated County household size for owner occupied units is 2.28 and renter occupied unit is 2.35. Within the cities and towns, Table 5-1 provides information for owner and renter occupied units, respectively.

Table 5-1
Households

Municipality	2017 Population	Total Households	Total Housing Units	Average Household Size (owner occupied)	Average Household Size (renter occupied)	Percentage of Total Housing Units
Unincorporated	10,140	5,637	8,152	2.28	2.35	82.8%
Incorporated Cities	3,230	1,344	1,691	-		
Cusick	*205*	*46*	*90*	*1.63*	*3.40*	*0.9%[1]*
Ione	*445*	*178*	*268*	*2.16*	*2.00*	*2.7%[1]*
Metaline	*445*	*82*	*101*	*2.34*	*2.50*	*1.0%[1]*
Metaline Falls	*240*	*105*	*211*	*1.91*	*1.63*	*2.1%[1]*
Newport	*2,170*	*933*	*1021*	*2.20*	*2.38*	*10.4%[1]*
Pend Oreille County Total	**13,370**	**6,981**	**9,843**	**2. 09**	**2.38**	**100%**

Source: OFM population estimates; Census ACS data 2017.

5.5.1.2 Household Characteristics

An overview of existing household characteristics is provided in Table 5-2 and discussed in greater detail below.

Table 5-2
Special Needs Housing Trends-Pend Oreille County

Special Needs Groups	Total in 2010	% of total	Total in 2017	% of total
Elderly Population 65+	2,485	19.2%	3,180	24.3%
Elderly Population 75+	944	7.3%	1,094	8.3%
Single Person Household	1544	28.2%	1480	26.3%
Group Quarters	87	0.67%	127	0.97%

Source: 2017 ACS.

5.5.1.3 Special Needs Groups

Special needs groups include the elderly, and small households. Table 5-2 indicates different special needs groups.

The elderly population in Pend Oreille County has grown over the past decade. County residents over the age of 65 represent roughly 24% of the total County population, from 19% in 2010.

Single person household has a slight decrease from 28% in 2010, to 26% in 2017.

5.5.1.4 Group Quarters

According to 2017 Census data, a total of 127 people live in group quarters, or less than 1% of the County's population. Group quarters include institutional housing such as nursing homes, hospices, schools for the mentally or chronically ill, and correctional institutions; and non-institutionalized populations such as college dormitories, military quarters, group homes, religious group quarters, agricultural works dormitories, or other non-institutional group quarters. This is higher than in 2010, where there was a total of 87 persons living in group quarters.

5.5.2 Housing Units

This section describes the type, age, and occupancy of housing in the County.

5.5.2.1 Housing Stock

According to the ACS data, in the year 2017, Pend Oreille County had 8,152 housing units. Single-family detached residential is the primary housing type in the County, comprising roughly 73% of the housing stock. Multi-family structures (2+ units in structure) comprise almost 5% of the housing stock. Mobile homes total 20% of the housing units in the County, while recreational vehicles (boats,

RVs, vans, etc.) comprise 1% of the residences in the County. Table 5-3 provides background details on the available housing stock and trends in the County between the years 2010 and 2017.

Table 5-3
Housing Characteristics

Building Type	2010	% of Total	2017	% of Total
1, detached	5,523	72.0%	5,917	72.6%
1, attached	48	0.6%	66	0.8%
2	13	0.2%	70	0.9%
3 or 4	142	1.9%	58	0.7%
5 to 9	132	1.7%	99	1.2%
10 to 19	68	0.9%	69	0.8%
20 or more	134	1.7%	118	1.4%
Mobile home	1,606	20.9%	1,672	20.5%
Boat, RV, van, etc.	4	0.1%	83	1.0%
TOTAL	7,670		8,152	

Table 5-4
Housing Occupancy

Housing Type	2000	Percent of Total Housing	2017	Percent of Total Housing
Total Housing Units	7,670	100%	8,152	100%
Total Occupied Housing	5,511	71.9%	5,637	69.1%
Owner Occupied Housing	4,225	77.1%	4,388	77.8%
Renter Occupied Housing	1,254	22.9%	1,249	22.2%
Vacancy Rate				
Vacancy Rate (owner/rental)	Owner: 1.8% Rental: 7.3%	-	Owner: 2.4% Rental: 7.9%	-
Vacant Housing Units	2,159	28.1%	2,515	30.9%

Source: 2010 and 2017 ACS data.

5.5.2.2 Housing Tenure and Vacancy Rates

According to the 2017 ACS data, over three-quarters of the occupied housing stock is owner occupied (See Table 5-4). The cities within the County typically have a lower ownership rate, reflecting a slightly higher ownership rate in the rural areas of the County, and a greater percentage of rental units in incorporated areas. Renter occupied units comprise roughly 22% of total occupied units in the County.

Almost 30% of housing units are considered vacant in the county, however a majority of these are seasonal housing units (with 70 percent of the vacant units classified as seasonal). Vacancy rates in the County vary according to owner versus renter occupied housing units. Vacancy rates for owner-occupied housing units is approximately 2.4%, whereas renter-occupied vacancy rates are higher at 7.9%. These vacancy rates are higher than the average in Washington State. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, average vacancy rates in Washington were 3.8% for rental units and 1.4% for homeowner units in 2017. These vacancy rates trend higher from 2010 to 2017.

5.5.2.3 Age of Housing

Understanding the age of housing helps determine the trend and viability of the current inventory. This will also help to identify future needs. Figure 5-1 displays by decade the amount of housing units built in the County. Approximately 31% of the existing housing stock was built between 1980 to 1999. About half of the total housing stock was built between 1960 and 1999. Only 17% is newer built in 2000 or later. Generally, housing is older within the cities of the County, especially in Metaline Falls where a majority of the housing stock was built prior to 1939.

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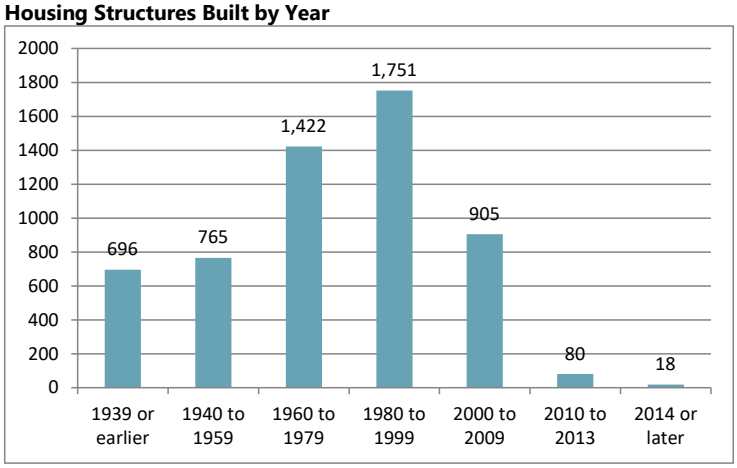
Figure 5-1
Housing Structures Built by Year



Source: 2017 ACS data

Building permit activity has been used to estimate new residential construction between 2010 and 2019. Since 2010, there have been approximately 438 new residential units (including manufactured homes) constructed or under construction, or roughly 48 units per year.

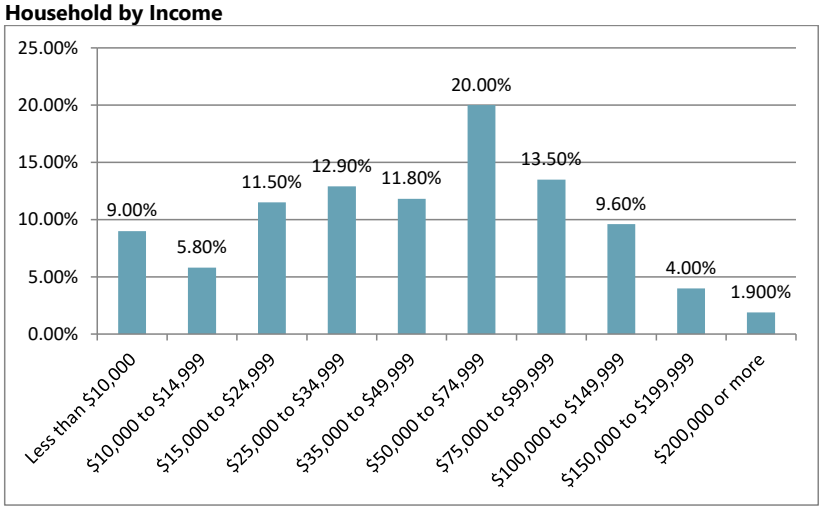
5.5.3 Household Income

The median household income in Pend Oreille County is $49,184 (Census ACS 2017). Understanding household incomes in Pend Oreille County provides a basis for measuring whether housing in the County is affordable to residents. The Growth Management Act requires that the Housing Element of a comprehensive plan address all segments of a community's population. When considering the economic segments of the population, the following income ranges are suggested by the state (based on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards):

- Extremely Low Income: ≤30% of median income;
- Very Low Income: Between 31-50% of median income;
- Low Income: Between 51-80% of median income;
- Moderate Income: Between 81-95% of median income; and
- Middle Income: Between 96-120% of median income.

Table 5-6 is a breakdown of household income levels in the County. Within Pend Oreille County, about 51% of the household falls between extremely low to median income groups. Figure 5-2 indicates the household range by income group.

Figure 5-2
Household by Income



5.5.4 Housing Affordability

The United States Department of Urban and Housing Development (HUD) defines housing affordability by measuring the allocation of household income on housing related expenses. This

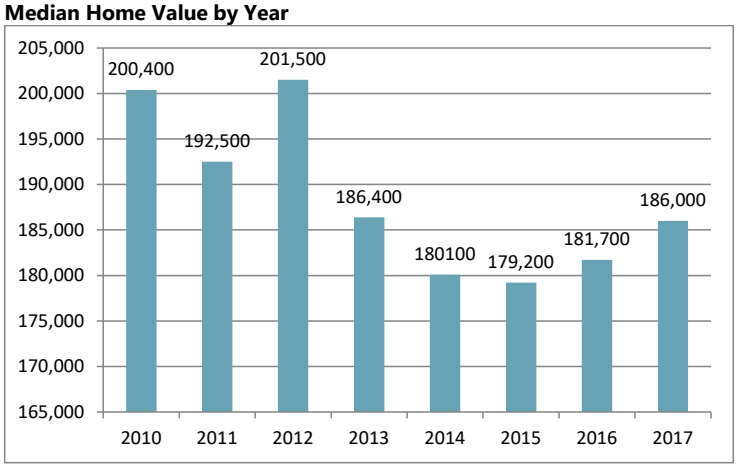
moving target is relative not only to income but also to geographic location. According to HUD, families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

5.5.4.1 Ownership Housing

Housing ownership can be an indicator of housing being affordable to the community. It also helps to understand more about how our community members are living. About 78% of the occupied homes are owner occupied, and 22% are renter occupied (See Table 5-4: Housing Occupancy). The median home value in the County is $186,000 based on the 2017 ACS data.

The median home value in Pend Oreille County has shown a decreasing pattern from 2013 to 2015. The values are starting to creep higher in 2016 and 2017, as shown in Figure 5-3.

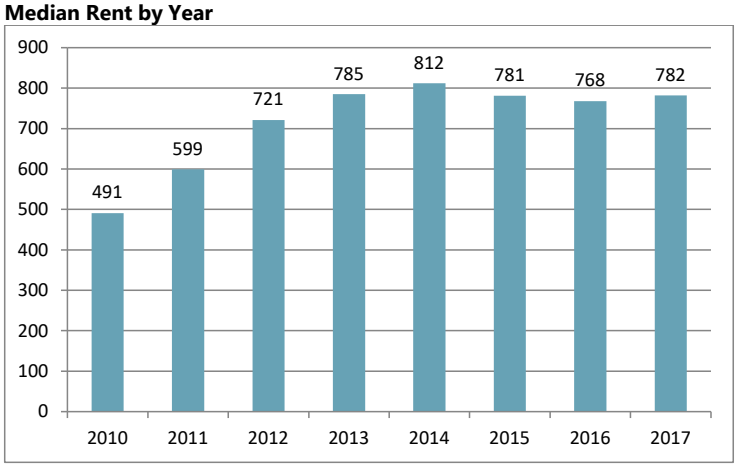
Figure 5-3
Median Home Value by Year



5.5.4.2 Rental Housing

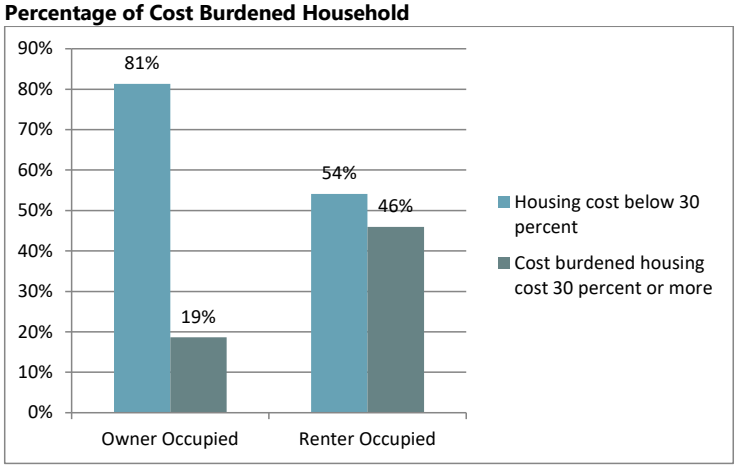
According to 2017 ACS data there are 1,249 occupied rental units. The median gross rent in the County is $782. Unlike home value, the rent in the County has been steady in the last five years, holding just above or below $800 per month, as shown in Figure 5-4.

Figure 5-4
Median Rent by Year



About 19%, or 812 homeowners are cost burdened with housing cost being 30% or more of the household income. About 46% of the renters in the County pay 30% or more of their income towards gross rent each month (See Figure 5-5). A majority of rental units in the County are single-family homes, manufactured homes, or mobile homes due to the fact that multifamily units comprise only about 5% of the County's housing stock (Table 5-3).

Figure 5-5
Percentage of Cost Burdened Household



5.6 Projected Population and Households

As discussed in the Land Use Element, County's population is expected to grow from 13,746 in 2019 to 14,641 in 2039 (OFM). This represents a population increase of 895 persons between 2019-2039 or roughly 45 persons/19 households per year, for a total of 380 additional households for the planning period. Within the unincorporated County, the population will change from 10,310 in 2018 to 11,307 in 2039.

Additionally, the Kalispel Tribe has identified housing needs for tribal members and these needs will need to be largely met off of the tribal reservation and federal lands held in trust for the Tribe, as much of the reservation land is undevelopable due to the presence of wetlands and other natural features that constrain developable lands. The primary focus area for housing needs is in the Cusick/Usk Urban Growth Area, where the tribe and others are participating in a sub-area planning effort to address affordable and available housing along with addressing other planning needs[14].

5.7 Available Resources and Future Considerations

Since the County is predominantly rural in character, its ability to meet its fair share allocation of affordable housing will likely focus on home ownership and rental opportunities. Roughly 78% of the occupied housing units in the County are owner occupied. Affordable housing is likely to be achieved through the County's existing housing stock and to a lesser extent, the construction of new single and multifamily housing units. It is important that the existing housing stock is preserved and maintained to the greatest extent feasible. In urban areas and higher intensity development areas in the County, new multifamily units with a range of unit sizes, will also help to increase affordable housing units in the County. Alternative housing styles such as senior housing, cluster development, and accessory dwelling units will also provide additional opportunities to accommodate a range of household incomes. Promoting tiny homes, mobile home parks and rental homes would increase access to affordable housing in the County. Affordable housing is most likely to be achieved in the urban growth areas of the cities and towns, the Rural Community Areas, and to a lesser extent in the rural areas of the County. The County will cooperate with the cities and towns to encourage a mix of affordable housing in all urban growth areas.

5.8 Programs

The County and cities have several housing assistance programs that could support their needs, as follows, recognizing needs vary in different areas of the County.

Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance. Provide rent subsidy for renter households who pay more than 30% of their income for housing, and who earn less than 50% of median income. Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit provides a tax incentive to construct

[14] Email communication from Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe Information and Outreach Coordinator, dated June 19, 2019.

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or rehabilitate affordable rental housing for low-income households. The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) subsidizes the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing for low- and moderate-income tenants[15].

Section 515 Rural Rental Housing. Rural Rental Housing Loans are mortgages made by USDA to provide affordable rental housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities. Section 521 USDA Rental Assistance. This rental assistance is a project-based subsidy prioritizing multi-family projects for tenants with low or very low income. The goal is for rent to not exceed 30% of adjusted household income.

Additionally, the Washington State legislature passed laws in 2019 that allows cities and counties to allow local real estate excise taxes be used for homelessness and housing initiatives.

[15] Available at: https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/what-low-income-housing-tax-credit-and-how-does-it-work Accessed on: September 24, 2019

6 Parks and Recreation

6.1 Overview

Pend Oreille County has developed a plan to guide park and recreation activities titled *Parks and Recreation Plan in Pend Oreille County (Parks Plan),* which was updated in 2019. Along with goals and polices the Parks Plan contains a detailed inventory of parks, trail and recreational facilities in the County.. This plan is incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan

The document was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in July 2019. This Parks Element summarizes the key goals and policies from the *Parks Plan*, and presents baseline existing conditions data for context.

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6.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA), at RCW 36.70A.020, includes this specific goal:

> "Open Space and Recreation: Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities."

The Growth Management Act requires the development of a park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; and (c) an evaluation of

intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

6.3 Parks and Recreation Goals

Parks and Recreation Goal #1: Be good stewards of land, and conserve natural resources with designated parks and recreation areas including vegetation, wildlife, water and soil.

Parks and Recreation Goal #2: Develop and provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities that enable and enhance a fulfilling outdoor recreation experience for residents and visitors of Pend Oreille County.

Parks and Recreation Goal #3: Provide a clean, safe and well-maintained environment for all using the County's parks and recreation areas.

Parks and Recreation Goal #4: Support the identification and promotion of the full range of public and private recreational opportunities in the County for local residents and visitors.

Parks and Recreation Goal #5: Support the designation of the North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway and the Selkirk Loop, and the development of the Sweet Creek Recreation Area.

Parks and Recreation Goal #6: Establish a permanent County Parks and Recreation Department.

Parks and Recreation Goal #7: Promote recreation and tourism opportunities by integrating local parks and recreation planning with economic development strategies and priorities.

6.4 Parks and Recreation Policies

In support of the Parks and Recreation Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Parks and Recreation Policies:

Parks and Recreation Policy #1: Develop specific management plans for every area that is designated as park or recreation land, and wildlife area.

Parks and Recreation Policy #2: Continue to maintain rules and regulations to manage activities within Pend Oreille County Parks and public accesses to promote harmony between wildlife, park users, and surrounding landowners.

Parks and Recreation Policy #3: Support local efforts to integrate local parks and recreation planning with economic development strategies and priorities to promote recreational tourism opportunities.

Parks and Recreation Policy #4: Identify a funding source(s) to support the establishment of a county parks, recreation, and tourism coordinator position to develop, maintain, and promote park, recreation, and tourism opportunities and facilities;

a. Near term priorities should emphasize maintenance of existing facilities and activities to reduce on-going maintenance costs, improved signage, and support for volunteer cleanup and repair projects; and
b. Development of new facilities and/or the acquisition of new property should occur only after near term priorities are met and as funding is available.

Parks and Recreation Policy #5: Identify and/or consider establishing funding sources to support the development of new and existing parks.

Parks and Recreation Policy #6: Work with WSDOT to implement National Scenic Byways requirements on designated scenic corridors.

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Parks and Recreation Policy #7: Update the Boating Ordinance 97-27 as necessary.

Parks and Recreation Policy #8: Encourage facilities, displays, and exhibits at Pend Oreille County Park that offer a wide range of educational opportunities to individuals and program participants.

Parks and Recreation Policy #9: Support a desirable mix of natural resources and recreation opportunities by allowing activities such as hiking, biking, and viewing.

Parks and Recreation Policy #10: Promote access to water for water oriented recreational opportunities.

Parks and Recreation Policy #11: In cooperation with the Fair Board, review and update the plans for the Pend Oreille County Fairgrounds to provide visitors, volunteers, and staff with modern facilities to operate and support the year-round activities of the site

Parks and Recreation Policy 129: Review and update standards to guide the development of public and privately owned and operated commercial RV Parks, campgrounds, and related facilities to address water and sanitary sewer requirements, access requirements, and permitted densities and uses, etc.

Parks and Recreation Policy #13: As a part of the ongoing efforts to implement the County six-year road plan:

a. Identify priorities for designating, signing, striping, and/or constructing bike lanes, pedestrian paths or routes; and
b. Support the design and installation of signage to identify Scenic Byways and viewpoints, boat accesses, and designated recreation areas.

Parks and Recreation Policy #14: Coordinate and collaborate with the U.S. Forest Service and other public resource agencies and managers to inventory recreational opportunities and promote the shared use and full enjoyment of publicly owned land in the County.

6.5 Existing Conditions

6.5.1 Parks

6.5.1.1 Pend Oreille Park

Pend Oreille Park is a partially developed park owned by the County, located just west of Highway 2 approximately two miles north of the border with Spokane County. This 440-acre park was first developed by Washington State in the 1930s to preserve one of the last stands of old growth timber in the region. Pend Oreille County acquired the property from the state in the early 1980s. The County has adopted a plan for Pend Oreille County Park. Currently the Park is operated by a private contractor, who is responsible for minor maintenance and repair, and who receives all revenue from overnight camping fees.

The park has restrooms, an overnight campground, a day-use picnic area and an extensive trail system including 7 miles of hiking trails. The trail system can be accessed year-round for hiking, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing from the park entrance parking lot. The campground has 26 camping sites. Based on the Parks Plan, current service capacity adequately meets the parks demand. However, maintenance of trees, vegetation and facilities are needed.

6.5.1.2 Other Parks and Open Spaces

In addition to Pend Oreille Park, the County owns twelve parcels of forest land which are currently managed for timber revenue, and some undeveloped riverfront and lake properties. Some of these properties may be appropriate for recreational development, particularly those on or near the Pend Oreille River and Diamond, Sacheen and Davis lakes.

Rustler's Gulch

The Rustler's Gulch area was donated to Pend Oreille County by the Washington Department of Natural Resources in May of 2009 with the stipulation that the 560-acre parcel be used exclusively for the purpose of providing fish and wildlife habitat, open space or recreation. It is located in the south end of Pend Oreille County approximately 1 ½ miles northwest of Pend Oreille County Park and adjacent to the West Branch Little Spokane Wildlife Refuge managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The area is currently open to Off Road Vehicles (ORV) and is used mostly by surrounding landowners and some regional recreationists for hunting.

Deleted: There is some interest locally in acquiring the Gardner Caves Park and Lake Newport State Park from Washington State. Gardner Caves is located north of Metaline Falls near Boundary Dam, and is currently open from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Lake Newport State Park is an undeveloped parcel located along the west side of the Pend Oreille River four miles north of Newport.¶

Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area

The 80 acres surrounding and including the south half of Yocum Lake was acquired by Pend Oreille County through a land trade with Stimson Lumber Company in 2005. In 2008, it was designated The Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area by the County Commissioners. The adjacent US Forest Service's Yocum Lake Campground, which is accessed from the west by a Forest Service road, is a primitive campground with a boat launch. No motors are allowed on the lake. This area does not have the capacity to serve large amounts of visitors, which supports a goal of protecting the pristine and primitive aesthetics of the area.

Eagles Nest Viewing Area

Overlooking the Pend Oreille River on Highway 31, just north of Box Canyon Dam is the Eagles Nest Viewing Area. The viewing area provides paved parking and sitting locations.

6.5.1.3 Trails

The County has an intricate network of trails system within Pend Oreille County Park, and in other recreation areas. Some are discussed below.

Rustlers Gulch Equestrian Trail

Rustlers Gulch Equestrian Trail, approximately 2.5 miles long, provides a non-motorized connection from Pend Oreille County Park to the Rustlers Gulch Recreation Area. The trail is designed to accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, snow shoeing and other non-motorized activities.

Pend Oreille River Water Trail

The 70-mile Pend Oreille River Water Trail is a network of resting points, access points, and attractions for users of water craft on the Pend Oreille River as it flows north into Canada.

6.5.1.4 County Fairgrounds

The Pend Oreille County Fairground, located immediately west of the Town of Cusick on Highway 20, is owned by the County. The Fairground property is bounded on the east by Highway 20, on the north and west by Calispel Creek, and on the south by a privately-owned farm. The Fairground property is composed of approximately 18.5 acres and 25 buildings, containing 61,719 square feet of space, a rodeo arena, and a campground. The Pend Oreille County Fair Board contracts for the services of a caretaker, who is responsible for grounds maintenance and site security.

6.5.1.5 Other Agency Resources

In addition to county park areas, there are an abundance of other park and recreation areas throughout the county administered and managed by Federal, State and private agencies and organizations. These include recreation areas owned by USFWS, USFS, Pend Oreille PUD, Seattle City

Light, WDFW, WDNR, WSDOT, and Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. In addition, each City and town provides park facilities within the UGA.

All existing parks, open spaces and facilities are identified in map XX.

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6.6 Level of Service Standards

The Parks Plan identifies LOS based on quantity, quality, distribution and access.

Currently Pend Oreille County has 1063 acres that are officially designated as park areas. With County's 2019 population of 13,746, the current park and open space land per 1000 is approximately 77 acres. The Parks Plan concludes that current facilities are meeting 100% of the demand.

6.7 Future Plans and Considerations

The Parks Plan concludes that there is an abundant amount of outdoor recreation opportunities in Pend Oreille County and most are not used to full capacity. An emphasis needs to be placed on maintaining and improving existing facilities in County Parks. Coordination of efforts with other agencies (USFS, DNR, DFW, PUD, etc.) and the private sector to provide campground and/or recreation site maintenance to reduce costs and keep sites open longer during the season should be investigated.

County owns the Edgewater North Recreation Area, a 160-acre parcel located on the east side of the Pend Oreille River just northeast of the Town of Ione and adjacent to the north side of the USFS Edgewater Campground. There is one mile of river frontage. It is currently undeveloped, but the logging skid trails are used by local off road vehicle enthusiasts. This is a large area that has the capacity to serve large numbers of visitors.

There is a need to provide pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation access to the county parks. The potential for a bike path to Pend Oreille County Park from Diamond Lake or Newport should be investigated as well as bike paths to Sweet Creek Rest Area from Metaline and Metaline Falls. Trails and bike paths in other areas should also be investigated. A non-motorized trail connecting Pend Oreille County Park and Rustlers Gulch was completed.

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7 Utilities

7.1 Overview

The Utilities Element identifies the utilities provided to County residents, the service providers for these utilities, the ability of these providers to serve County residents, and goals and policy direction. Utilities include, but are not limited to, electricity, water, sewer, solid waste disposal, telephone, telecommunications, natural gas, cable and satellite television, Internet delivery, and other utilities required in a community in accordance with generally accepted national standards.

Utilities are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan due to the need for efficient, timely, and cost-effective provision of services. As growth occurs, utilities must be extended or developed to support new development in a timely manner. Within each urban growth area and Rural Community Areas, the affected jurisdictions, and/or special purpose district or association should be consulted to determine the responsible service providers and the availability and timing of the service. Establishing common use corridors is also an important part of future utility extensions. Utility corridors often include electricity, water, fiber optics, other telecommunications medium, and potentially natural gas.

Although Pend Oreille County has a limited role as a utility service provider, the County coordinates with service providers in order to plan for and provide efficient service, anticipate and resolve utility problems, and accommodate future population growth by maintaining current information on the existing and proposed facilities of all utilities service providers. This Utilities Element is designed to support utility providers in meeting their public service obligations to provide service on demand to

existing and future customers and to minimize negative impacts resulting from the provision of services on County residents, infrastructure, and the natural environment. Expansion of the utility systems is a function of the demand for reliable service that people, their land uses, and activities place on the systems. Goals and policies will guide the development of future utilities and will help to ensure that utility extensions are concurrent with anticipated growth.

7.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act requires that each Comprehensive Plan include a Utilities Element which addresses, "the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunications lines, and natural gas lines" (RCW 36.70A.070(4)).

7.3 Utility Goals

Utility Goal #1: Plan for higher densities in areas with available utility services where utilities exist and have capacity or plans for additional capacity to support new service connections.

Deleted: Encourage local utility providers to evaluate and correct deficiencies, as well as plan for future utility needs and requirements

Utility Goal #2: Require that utilities needed to accommodate growth and new development are adequate, and are provided concurrent to the need.

7.4 Utility Policies

In support of the Utilities Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Utility Policies:

Utility Policy #1: Incorporate by reference, the County Solid Waste Plan, the PUD #1 capital plans, and water and sewer facility plans by cities, towns and special districts, as updated, into this Comprehensive Plan

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Utility Policy #2: Encourage the Public Utility District and other public service providers to review and update their capital facility plans to be consistent with this comprehensive plan.

Utility Policy #3: Establish standards and application requirements to verify that adequate provisions for water and sewer service, and fire suppression have been made prior to the final approval of land use or building permit applications.

Utility Policy #4: The Northeast Tri-County Health District should continue to monitor sanitary sewer systems, private wells, and community water systems for compliance with federal, state, and local standards.

Utility Policy #5: Encourage the establishment of community water and sanitary sewer systems, provided that adequate provisions have been made to insure that the systems remain financially viable and self-supporting.

Utility Policy #6 Support the installation of fiber optic networks and services.

Utility Policy #7: Support improved cellular and wireless communication services and encourage the installation of facilities that are designed to blend into the surroundings.

Utility Policy #8: When acquiring right-of way, Pend Oreille County and the State should acquire sufficient land to accommodate desired road improvements as well as to support the coordinated installation of utilities now and in the future.

Utility Policy #9: Require that all right-of-way permits include provisions that include other utilities to collocate facilities in or near the same location in accordance with current applicable safety standards governing utility placement.

7.5 Existing Conditions and Future Proposals

This section generally describes the existing utilities and providers in Pend Oreille County. The location of specific utilities is maintained in the County GIS system and/or with the individual utility providers in associated plans incorporate into the County Comprehensive Plan by reference. The County has a limited role as a utility service provider, primarily consisting of the solid waste system. All utilities in Pend Oreille County are either operated by public utility districts, private companies, or by cities.

Several independent federal government agencies, such as the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulate these utilities to protect the public interest. The County cannot prohibit the placement of these utilities, but can adopt standards relating to their siting and impacts associated with these facilities.

7.5.1.1 Solid Waste

The solid waste system is a Countywide, coordinated effort. The County retains ownership of the three solid waste transfer station sites, with recycling facilities. These include the transfer facilities near Newport, Ione, and Usk. Solid waste from each town is hauled to a County transfer station and transported out of the County to Spokane under private contract. See the Capital Facilities Element and the County's Final Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)[16] (which incorporates the County Transfer Station Operations Plan) for more details. The existing SWMP and future updates of the plan are incorporated by reference. The SWMP includes only minor operational changes to improve MSW efficiency and recycling opportunities, and has no plans to site or construct new facilities in new locations.

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[16] Pend Oreille County Solid Waste Management Plan Update, Final Draft, dated September 18, 2018.

7.5.1.2 Sewer Systems

The County does not maintain sewage treatment facilities. The primary method of sewage treatment in the rural parts of the County is through on-site systems provided by private developers, either for individuals or for larger developments. Northeast Tri-County Health and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) regulate on-site septic systems.

There are several areas in the County served by sewer. Most of the Diamond Lake area is served by the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District and part of Sacheen Lake is served by the Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District. Other service providers in the County are Lenora Water and Sewer District, Ponderay Shores Water and Sewer District, and Chippewa Water and Sewer District. Each city and town in the County maintains its own sewage treatment facility.

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7.5.1.3 Water Systems

Washington State defines public water systems as all systems serving more than one single-family residence. State health regulations now require that new public water systems serving three or more connections to be operated by a Satellite Management Agency (SMA), where one is available. Group A systems serve 15 or more connections, or 25 or more people per day for 60 or more days per year. Group B water systems are all of the smaller systems that serve more than one single-family residence but are not large enough to be considered a Group A system.

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1 owns and operates several water systems throughout the County.

The Diamond Lake area is served by the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District. Other specific water providers in the County are Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District, Lenora Water and Sewer District, Ponderay Shores Water and Sewer District, and Chippewa Water and Sewer District. While the County does not supply sewer and water service, the County can permit development within the District only with the approval of the District. The County will coordinate with the District regarding development within its boundaries to ensure that any County action does not create an expectation that service will be provided which is beyond the District's capacity.

7.5.1.4 Stormwater Management Facilities

Each city and town in the County maintains its own drainage system within its corporate boundaries. WSDOT is responsible for the management of runoff from state highways and the effects of this runoff. There are no regional stormwater collection facilities.

Developments are required to address storm water run-off onsite. Level of service standards vary depending on terrain, soil type, vulnerability of surface water to contamination, and other factors. The County has an established level of service standard for new development, which requires that new development be designed to accommodate a 25-year, 24-hour storm.

7.5.1.5 Electric Utilities

7.5.1.6 Pend Oreille Public Utility District #1

Electric service is provided to Pend Oreille County by the Pend Oreille Public Utility District #1 headquartered in Newport. The PUD owns and operates the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the Calispel Project, and has Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license rights to power from the Boundary Hydroelectric Project, which is owned by the City of Seattle. Energy generated from these projects is distributed to the PUD's consumers along with energy provided from the Bonneville Power Administration and other sources. Several substations have been constructed to meet existing and future energy needs.

The PUD serves 9,135[17] electric customers and maintains lines and equipment stretching over 1,425 miles of rural land. The PUD's Box Canyon Dam can produce a maximum of approximately 90 Megawatts, and the PUD has rights for up to 48 Megawatts, at cost, from Seattle City Light's Boundary Dam.

The PUD is a part of the regional power grid and therefore has access to other sources of electricity, though the way in which the grid will help to provide power and the cost of that power will be governed by the terms of deregulation in the power industry. The PUD always maintains exchange agreements with other power producers.

7.5.1.7 Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light (SCL) owns and operates the Boundary Project, SCL's largest generating station, which was built in 1967. The project's authorized licensed capacity is 1,003.253 megawatts (MW). This license includes measures to mitigate the impacts of Boundary's operations on the surrounding environment. These measures address recreation, aquatic, terrestrial, cultural, and wildlife resources and benefit the environment and the communities in and around Boundary[18]. The project boundaries include over 800 acres within which the dam, powerhouse, support structures, roads, and the reservoir banks upstream of the project are located. License requirements include full power compensation for the reduction of output, called encroachment, from the Box Canyon Dam to the Boundary Project construction. This compensation includes the sale of power at cost to Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1. Boundary Dam is operated for peak load-following and providing operating reserves, meaning water is most often released during the day and the reservoir refills at night. Bonneville Power Administration owns the Boundary Substation transmission switchyard, however, SCL owns, operates, and maintains some of the equipment in the yard. The Abercrombie

[17] https://popud.org/services/electric-service/
[18] https://www.seattle.gov/light/Boundary/

Mountain and Mt. Spokane microwave towers are outside the project boundaries, but are also maintained by Boundary crews.

7.5.1.8 Natural Gas

There is no natural gas service available in Pend Oreille County. LPG is available from several vendors in the area.

7.5.1.9 Telecommunications

Telecommunication refers to the electronic transmission of information by means such as telephone, radio, television, optical cable, satellite, and other technologies. The telecommunications industry is constantly changing, diversifying, and redefining the way in which we exchange information.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 establishes national guidelines for enabling equitable competition in all telecommunication markets, including the local telephone market, and identifies respective roles of the Federal Communications Commission and the states to accomplish the transition.

In Pend Oreille County, telecommunication utilities include wire telephone, cellular (wireless) telephone, cable and satellite television, wire and satellite Internet, and fiber optic cable. However, these services are more readily available to those living or working close to the cities and towns. The remote and more rural areas of the County are challenged in accessing many of these telecommunication services, with service particularly limited in the northern parts of the County.

Local telephone and cellular service is provided by a variety of service providers, relying upon facilities located around the County.

Cable providers generally accompany electrical and telephone lines in urban areas, utilizing a common easement. Cable services are provided in and around Newport, Ione, Metaline and Metaline Falls.

There are also numerous Internet providers available to the residents of Pend Oreille County.

7.6 Future Considerations

As discussed above, utility providers extend their services based on projected demand. There are many areas, particularly in the northern part of the County, where some utility services are more limited. The County will support the location of additional utilities in public rights of way and utility corridors, as applicable, to meet existing and future service demands.

8 Essential Public Facilities

8.1 Overview

Essential public facilities (EPFs) are those facilities needed to provide public services and functions that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, education facilities, state or regional transportation facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, mental health facilities, group homes and secure community transition facilities. Essential public facilities are oftentimes difficult to site due to neighborhood opposition, unusual site requirements, such as the size of the facility, location, adverse impact such as noise, odor, pollution, traffic impact, aesthetics and health and safety concerns or other features that complicate the siting process.

The purpose of this section is to identify the essential public facilities in the County and establish a cooperative, inter-jurisdictional process for siting essential public facilities. Essential public facilities goals and policies are designed to ensure fair, efficient siting of essential public facilities through coordinated and cooperative planning efforts, consistent with Pend Oreille Countywide Planning Policies.

8.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that the comprehensive plans of each county and city include a "process for identifying and siting essential public facilities" (RCW 36.70A.200 (1)). GMA also states "no local comprehensive plan or development regulations may preclude the siting of essential public facilities" (RCW 36.70A.200 (5)).

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) provides further guidance and interpretation:

> "The term "essential public facilities" is a specialized term which refers to facilities that are typically difficult to site. "Essential public facilities" do not necessarily include everything with the statutory definitions of "public facilities" and "public service," and should include additional items not listed in those definitions. Consistent with countywide planning policies, local governments should create their own lists of "essential public facilities," guided by the examples set forth in RCW 36.70A.200, but not necessarily bound by those examples. The County and the municipalities may also identify other public facilities that are required in order to provide services necessary for development. For the purposes of identifying facilities to be subject to the "essential public facilities" siting process, it is not necessary that the facilities be publicly owned. If the services involved meet a locally accepted definition of public service, the supporting facilities for the services may be included on the list, regardless of ownership." (WAC 365-195-070(4))

8.3 Essential Public Facilities Goals

Essential Public Facility Goal #1: Establish and maintain a process to evaluate the need for and criteria to site Essential Public Facilities within the County that complies with: the Countywide Planning Policies; the *Statement of Values* and this Comprehensive Plan; and applicable state and federal regulations.

Essential Public Facility Goal #2: Provide necessary public facilities and services, in places and at levels proportionate to planned development intensity and environmental protection.

Essential Public Facility Goal #3: Ensure the fair and efficient siting of Essential Public Facilities in the region through cooperative and coordinated planning with other jurisdictions and the population in general within the region.

8.4 Essential Public Facilities Policies

In support of the Essential Public Facility Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Essential Public Facility Policies:

Essential Public Facility Policy #1: Identify and maintain a list of the existing and planned State and local Essential Public Facilities.

Essential Public Facility Policy #2: Policy and development regulations should not preclude the siting of Essential Public Facilities.

Essential Public Facility Policy #3: Relevant jurisdictions should provide ample public participation in the process of siting Essential Public Facilities.

Essential Public Facility Policy #4: Jurisdictions should consult with the cities and towns in the County and the Kalispel Tribe on matters regarding the siting of Essential Public Facilities.

Essential Public Facility Policy #5: Establish an Essential Public Facility Siting Review Committee, on an as needed basis, to advise the County Commissioners on the siting of new Essential Public Facilities.

Essential Public Facility Policy #6: Establish standards to guide the siting and development of Essential Public Facilities in the County. These standards should acknowledge state and federal requirements and emphasize the design, construction, and landscaping of facilities that are compatible with their surroundings.

Essential Public Facility Policy #7: Perform environmental review consistent with SEPA requirements.

Essential Public Facility Policy #8: Include means for mitigating disproportionate financial burdens on affected jurisdictions while locating such facilities.

Essential Public Facility Policy #9: Locate Essential Public Facilities with the least disruption of natural habitat, floodplains, wetlands, geologically hazardous areas, resource lands, and other environmentally sensitive areas.

Essential Public Facility Policy #10: Pend Oreille County should not approve the siting of Essential Public Facilities outside an Urban Growth Area boundary unless the facility is self-contained and does not require the construction, maintenance, or extension of urban services.

Essential Public Facility Policy #11: Essential Public Facilities that generate substantial traffic should be sited near major transportation corridors.

Deleted: *<#>Process to Evaluate the Siting of Essential Public Facilities (Delete)*¶
<#>The County has outlined a general process to evaluate the siting of essential public facilities. This process includes site selection criteria, policies for the creation of an essential public facility siting committee, and the general application phase. ¶
<#>**Process Overview**¶
<#>Permit application. (Note: Application form will be developed along with the revision of the Pend Oreille County Development Code.)¶
<#>Determination of eligibility. (Note: Eligibility requirements consistent with this process will be developed with the revision of the County Development Code.)¶
<#>Appoint an essential public facilities (EPF) siting committee to evaluate proposed facility and sites. (See Essential Public Facility Siting Review Committee below.)¶
<#>EPF siting review committee to establish a timeline for each project review, by agreement between the applicant and the siting committee.¶
<#>Site search consultation with adjacent and affected jurisdictions, agencies, and utilities.¶
<#>Identify and analyze each potential site;¶
<#>Local land use review; and¶
<#>Application of specific review criteria for the proposed project. (See Criteria.)¶
<#>Consultation and coordination of review of siting issues among the various affected jurisdictions, agencies, and utilities for review and comment, and in preparing recommendations.¶
<#>Coordinate the results of the analysis with the agency that is proposing the essential public facility¶
<#>Rank each site based on the analysis, criteria, and public comments.¶
<#>**Essential Public Facility Siting Review Committee**¶
<#>The following policies must be provided for the committee:¶
<#>How the committee is chosen, such as: number of members; selection criteria; whether a standing committee;¶
<#>Duties of the committee, such as to: Establish a timeline for each project review; evaluate each proposed essential public facility and site(s) using the adopted review criteria consistent with the Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan; and¶
<#>Rules of conduct for the committee meetings. ¶
<#>**General Application Phase**¶
<#>Classify the proposed essential public facility under one of the following:¶
<#>A multi-county facility;¶
...

9 Capital Facilities Element

9.1 Overview

The Capital Facilities element provides a functional description of the County's current infrastructure needs and a projection of those needs as population grows in the County. Capital facilities include roads, bridges, parks and open spaces, facilities for drinking water, wastewater, surface water, solid waste disposal and recycling, and the government buildings that house public services. These capital facilities are needed to support the future growth expected in the County.

Policies are adopted to guide future capital spending, and to require new infrastructure to be provided concurrently with new development. The County under the Growth Management Act (GMA) makes capital budget decisions in conformity with its comprehensive plan.

The Capital Facilities and the Capital Finance Plan help the County to make the sound financial decisions that will ensure that services such as law enforcement, transportation facilities, parks, and solid waste disposal will continue to adequately support county residents today and into the future. Particularly important are those facilities that the county funds or those facilities that influence the type and quality to the growth and development of the County.

9.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

Under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), a capital facilities element is one of the six required elements of the comprehensive plan. Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), this element must:

- Identify public facilities that will be required during the 6-years following adoption of the comprehensive plan;
- Include the location and cost of the facilities, and the sources of revenue that will be used to fund the facilities; and
- Be financially feasible, i.e. dependable revenue sources must equal or exceed anticipated costs. If the costs exceed the revenue, the local government must reduce its level of service or otherwise reduce costs, or else the land use element of the comprehensive plan must be modified to bring development into balance with available or affordable public facilities.

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) is updated each year as part of the County budgeting process.

9.3 Capital Facilities Goals

Capital Facility Goal #1: Evaluate and plan to correct existing capital facilities system deficiencies, as well as plan for future capital facilities needs and requirements.

Capital Facility Goal #2: Assure that public facilities needed to accommodate growth are adequate and are provided concurrently to the need, based on the County's adopted level of service standards.

Capital Facility Goal #3: Inform citizens of the financial requirements for needed capital improvements.

Capital Facility Goal #4: Schedule capital expenditures for all infrastructure systems in a comprehensive and financially sound manner.

9.4 Capital Facilities Policies

In support of the Capital Facility Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Capital Facility Policies:

Capital Facility Policy #1: The County 6-year Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) shall be updated annually, in conjunction with the county budget process. When updating the Capital Facilities Plan, consideration shall be given not only to the cost-effective design, but also to maintenance and operation costs.

Capital Facility Policy #2: Include capital projects that are required to carry out policies of other elements of the Comprehensive Plan in the Capital Facilities Plan.

Capital Facility Policy #3: As projects are added to the Capital Facilities Plan, review the timing of all other projects to ensure the availability of financing and other resources.

Capital Facility Policy #4: Prepare a prioritized list of lands necessary for the identified public county facilities, including an estimated date by which the land acquisition will be needed.

Capital Facility Policy #5: Adopt a concurrency management plan to evaluate specific development proposals to ensure that needed capital expenditures are made concurrent with development.

Capital Facility Policy #6: Periodically review forecasted facility and equipment needs and establish target dates for the repair or replacement of County facilities.

Capital Facility Policy #7: Design and landscape capital facilities to blend in with the surrounding environment and to mitigate potential adverse impacts.

Capital Facility Policy #8: When feasible, utilize dedicated capital facility funds to leverage state and federal grant funds.

Capital Facility Policy #9: Work with the State and the cities and towns within the County to identify areas of common need or the opportunities for the shared use of public facilities.

Capital Facility Policy #10: Consider collecting impact fees or other means of assisting fire districts in financing needed capital improvements.

9.5 Existing Conditions and Level of Service

The capital facilities for which the County has direct responsibility include roads, solid waste disposal, parks and recreation, and county administrative facilities for the general government services provided by the courts, auditor, assessor, sheriff, commissioners, public works, and many other functions which take place in the Courthouse, Hall of Justice, Sheriff's Office, and other county facilities. For each area of County responsibility, the existing facilities inventory is maintained in the County GIS system and incorporated by reference into the Comprehensive Plan.

9.5.1 Capital Project Selection and Level of Service Standards

The County and public facility providers will use established LOS for identifying capital improvements. For the County, LOS standards have been established for County roads, as discussed in Section 4.5.6. These LOS standards, along with other factors considered for other County facilities are considered in identifying planned capital improvements. Other factors considered in planning these improvements include identifying projects that:

- Address existing deficiencies
- Preserve existing capacity

- Provide for new development
- Enhance quality of life
- Meet other County needs not related to growth

The County will evaluate whether the County road standards and other identified capital needs are being met when updates to the Comprehensive Plan are performed according to the deadlines in RCW 36.70A.130(1), when UGAs are reviewed according to RCW 36.70A.130(3), and when major changes are made to this element. If these standards are not being met and public facilities are inadequate, the County will consider one or more of the following strategies:

- Reduce public facility demand
- Reduce LOS standards
- Increase revenue
- Reduce the cost of the needed public facilities
- Reallocate or redirect population and employment growth to make better use of existing facilities
- Phase growth or adjust the timing of development, if the lack of public facilities is a short-term issue

The County will also evaluate if proposed development activities would reduce the LOS of public facilities below the adopted standards. If a proposal is expected to impact a transportation facility and cause it to fall below the LOS standard, then preliminary development approval would also need to include additional improvements or strategies made concurrent with the development that maintain these standards. All other types of public facilities do not have the specific concurrency requirement that transportation facilities have, but they do require the provision of adequate public facilities as a condition of project approval.

Public facility improvements for maintenance or other needs and not targeted to maintain LOS may include:

- Facility repairs
- Remodels
- Renovation
- Replacement of obsolete or worn out structures
- Improvements that do not reduce financing for other improvements needed to achieve or maintain LOS standards
- Improvements that do not contradict, limit, or substantially change the goals and policies of any element of this Comprehensive Plan

Public facility improvements may also provide capacity in excess of what would be required to achieve or maintain LOS standards (i.e., the minimum capacity of a capital project is larger than the

capacity required to provide the LOS). Excess capacity is beneficial if it results in economies of scale making it less expensive than a comparable amount of capacity acquired at a later date. However, these projects may be given a lower priority than projects needed to maintain the LOS standard.

9.5.2 Capital Facilities and Land Use

There is a direct relationship between the Capital Facilities and Land Use elements of the Comprehensive Plan. The Land Use element determines where and at what density population and employment growth will be located. The Capital Facilities element identifies the thresholds of growth, when new and expanded public facilities will be needed, and indicates the County's priority system for constructing the identified public facilities. Although some public facilities are provided by other government agencies or private entities, the County must demonstrate these services are available.

9.5.2.1 County Capital Facilities Improvement Plan

Capital facilities are planned to accommodate expected population growth and to meet other County needs. These additional capital facilities are included in the 6-year planning period and potential funding sources are identified for roads, solid waste management facilities and other capital improvements. The County has produced the following 6-year Capital Facilities Plan, which is a list of proposed improvements. The 6-year Capital Facilities Improvement Plan is updated annually as part of the Pend Oreille County budget process, and the latest version of this plan is incorporated into the Comprehensive plan by reference. Any updates to the Capital Facilities element of the Comprehensive Plan will be considered concurrently with other proposed amendments that are included in the annual Comprehensive Plan amendment review. The County's CIP, adopted by reference, is a dynamic document that will be updated annually to reflect new cost information, funding information, project list changes, and existing facility updates. The annual updates to the CIP will be done prior to the annual budget process so that CIP projects can be included in the annual budget.

9.5.2.2 Capital Facilities and Public Facilities Projects

The County maintains a plan for other County facilities and public facility improvements. Improvements are described along with cost, funding source, and year planned. The plan is reviewed and updated annually, as necessary. In addition to these improvements, road, parks and solid waste improvements are also included in the County's Capital Facilities Improvement Plan.

Deleted: Table 9-1 identifies the latest improvements planned for certain County capital and public facility projects. I...

Roads

Major road improvements are scheduled through Pend Oreille County's 6-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Improvements are described by location, cost, funding source, and year for commencement of each phase of the improvement. No improvements are currently planned

other than those listed. The full 6-year TIP is described in Chapter 4 and incorporated into the County CIP by reference.

Parks

The Parks Plan contains a detailed inventory of parks, trail and recreational facilities in the County, along with future opportunities for improvements. This plan, including any future updates, is incorporated into this plan by reference, as described in greater detail in Chapter 6.

Solid Waste Facilities

Solid waste facility improvements are identified in the County's Solid Waste Management Plan. Improvements are described along with cost, funding source, and year planned. The SWMP is incorporated into this plan by reference.

9.5.3 Improvements to Public Facilities Identified in Other Plans

There are various other capital facilities throughout the County that are maintained by private and public entities, including fire districts and other emergency services, hospital districts (2), school districts, the Public Utility District #1 (PUD), water and sewer districts, library district, and other public service providers. Various plans prepared by these agencies and organizations have been reviewed by the County, along with phone interviews conducted, as part of this periodic Comprehensive Plan review and update. A summary of capital facilities forecasted for the next six years, along with the six-year financing plan, for these non-County operated facilities is provided in Table 9-1. This forecast and financing plan, combined with the County CIP and TIP for County-owned facilities comprise the County's forecast of future needed public facilities and financing plan for the next 6 years, to support implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The County will review and revise this forecast and financing plan, as applicable, during plan implementation.

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Table 9-1

Six-Year Capital Improvements Plan for Non-County Operated Facilities

Capital Facility Type	Providers (Location)	Existing Condition	Planned Improvements (Capacity)	Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost/Date
School Districts	Selkirk School District (spoke to Nancy Lotze - superintendent on 1/6/2020)	Capacity to meet school enrollment is adequate for several years.	Consolidated campus Yearly maintenance improvements	Potential bond, planned for future possibly in 2022	12 – 15 million with possible completion from 2023-2025
				Existing bond	Yearly budget of $50,000
	Newport School District (spoke to Dave Smith on 1/7/2020)	Aging facilities need updates. Capacity to meet school enrollment is adequate for several years.	No current planned improvements but possible bond in future to modernize high school but time undetermined		
	Cusick School District (spoke to Don Hawpe on 1/9/2020)	Capacity to meet school enrollment is adequate for several years.	No current planned improvements		
	Newport College Center (spoke to Rhonda Quandt on 1/7/2020)	Capacity to meet school enrollment is adequate for several years.	No current planned improvements		
Water and Sewer	Cities and Towns in Pend Oreille County	Existing system plans with facilities inventories and capacities adopted by reference	6-year water system and sewer plans	Rates and development charges, grants and loans. Existing revenues and planned rate increases will support system improvements, with growth paying for growth	See system plans, incorporated by reference, for these details

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County Capital Facilities Improvements¶

Pend Oreille County Comprehensive Plan Table 9.7 2

Department	Project
Buildings & Grounds	Courthouse Elevator Replacement
Buildings & Grounds	227 Garden Building HVAC Replac
Prosecutor Office	Hall of Justice Office Configuratio
Public Works	Fairgrounds Fire Flow Study
County Gov.	40 x 60 Pole Building for Storage
ITS	Data Center (Location Study)
ITS	Physical Security Upgrade (County
WSU Extension	4-H Building Study
Bond	Martin Hall Principal & Interest
Economic Development Pre	Administrative Costs for EDC &TE
Totals	
CP - Capital Project Fund	2017-2021 = 15,000 per year Mai
PF - Public facilites Fund	
GR - Grant funded	
B- Bond	
SH - Sheriff's Office	

¶

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Capital Facility Type	Providers (Location)	Existing Condition	Planned Improvements (Capacity)	Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost/Date
Power	Pend Oreille County PUD (email and left mess. For Mark Scott)	Existing system plans with facility inventories adopted by reference	Transmission, power production and water system improvements	Rates and development charges. Existing financial plans support system improvements, with growth paying for growth	See system plans, incorporated by reference, for these details
Water and Sewer Districts	Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District	Existing system plans with facility inventories adopted by reference. Approximately 50 additional water and sewer connections available. More water connections if water rights approved	New well site #4 near Southshore Diamond Lake Road to increase water rights	Rates and development charges. Existing financial plans support system improvements	2020 - $100,000
	Chippewa Water & Sewer District (sent email on 1/27)	No information provided	No information provided	No information provided	No information provided
	Lenora Water & Sewer District (spoke to Joni Stillian)	Existing water and sewer capacity is at 75% with room for 75 additional hook ups	None	Not applicable	Not applicable
	Ponderay Shores Water & Sewer District (spoke to Jeff Joregensen)	Available to serve an additional 40-50 lots once water line improvements made	Want to upgrade their water distribution line over the next 1-2 years.	Looking for funding via grants	2021 or 2022 – less than $100,000
	Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District (spoke to Joni Stillian)	Existing sewer capacity is at 50% with room for another 300 hook ups	None		
Fire Districts	South Pend Oreille Fire &	No information available	No planned improvements	No information available	No information available

Capital Facility Type	Providers (Location)	Existing Condition	Planned Improvements (Capacity)	Funding Source(s)	Estimated Cost/Date
	Rescue (spoke with fire chief Michael Nokes on 1/6/2020)				
	District 2, including Metaline and Ione	No information available	No information available	No information available	No information available
	District 4	No information available	No information available	No information available	No information available
	District 5 (spoke with Fire chief Jay Foster on 1/6/2020	Capacity improvements needed	Would like to remodel and add onto stations	Starting association to raise funds and looking at a community development block grant Assistance to Firefighters grant	$50,000 by 2025
			Would like to add an all- wheel drive pumper tanker		$300,000 by 2025 and need to raise $15,000 of it
	District 8	No information available	No information available	No information available	No information available

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Appendix A
Public Participation Plan

Public Participation Plan

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Appendix B
Definitions

Definitions

Affordable Housing: Housing that costs 30 percent or less of annual household income.

Agricultural Land: Land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticulture, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax imposed by RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production.

Capacity: The measure of the ability to provide a level of service.

Capital Improvement: Physical assets constructed or purchased to provide, improve, or replace a public facility, and that are large scale and high in cost. The cost of a capital improvement is generally non-recurring and may require multi-year financing.

Comprehensive Plan: A generalized, coordinated, use set of goals and policy statements that is adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Consistency: Compatibility of features of a plan or regulation with other features of a plan or regulation. Consistency is indicative of a capacity for orderly integration or operation with other elements in a system.

Coordination: Consultation and cooperation among jurisdictions.

Critical Areas: Critical areas include the following areas and ecosystems: a) wetlands; b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; d) frequently flooded areas, and e) geologically hazardous areas.

Density: Measure of the intensity of development, generally expressed in terms of dwelling units per acre that can also be expressed in terms of population density (i.e., people per acre). Useful for establishing a balance between potential local service use and service capacities.

Development Regulations: Any controls placed on development or land use activities by a county, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, subdivision ordinances, rezoning, building construction, , binding site plan ordinances, or any other regulations.

Domestic Water System: Any system providing a supply of potable water for the intended use of a development that is deemed adequate pursuant to RCW 19.27.097.

Forest Land: Land primarily devoted to growing trees, including Christmas trees subject to the excise tax imposed under RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, for commercial purposes and that has long-term commercial significance.

Geologically Hazardous Areas: Areas that because of their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events are not suited to the siting of commercial, residential, or industrial development consistent with public health or safety concerns.

Household: Includes all the persons who occupy a group of rooms or a single room that constitutes a housing unit.

Industry-Heavy: Zoning of lands for facilities used for the purpose of manufacturing, processing, assembly, fabrication, bulk handling, storage, warehousing, distribution, shipping, heavy trucking activity, and other related uses that typically generate or cause nuisance, odors, noise, vibration, contamination, chemical exposure/release, and or explosions. Heavy industries include, but is not limited to:

- The mechanical or chemical conversion of raw materials
- The blending or production of materials such as lubricating oils, plastics, resigns, or solvents
- Battery manufacture and reprocessing or the processing of toxic materials
- Refinery or storage of crude petroleum, coal, or minerals
- Stockyards, hog farms, and slaughterhouses
- Manufacture and storage of explosives

Industry-Light: Zoning of lands for facilities used for the purpose of manufacturing, processing, assembly, fabrication, bulk handling, storage, warehousing, distribution, shipping, and other related uses that typically occur indoors and/or do not typically impact neighboring uses. Light industries include, but is not limited to:

- Data centers and other high technology uses
- Research facilities
- Production and assembly facilities
- Maintenance and repair facilities
- Warehouses and storage facilities

Infrastructure: Those man-made structures that serve the common needs of the population, such as the following: sewage disposal systems, potable water wells serving a system, solid waste disposal sites or retention areas, stormwater systems, utilities, bridges, and roadways.

Intensity: A measure of land uses activity based on density, use, mass, size, and impact.

Future Land Use Map: The land use map for the Comprehensive Plan that designates the future general location and extent of the uses of land in the County and UGA for, housing, commerce, industry, , open spaces, , and other land uses.

Level of Service [LOS]: An indicator of the extent or degree of service provided by or proposed to be provided by a facility based on and related to the operational characteristics of the facility. Level of service means an established minimum capacity of capital facilities or services provided by capital facilities that must be provided per unit of demand or other appropriate measure of need.

Long-Term Commercial Significance: Includes the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration of the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land.

Master Planned Resort: A self-contained and fully integrated planned unit development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor recreational facilities.

Minerals: Gravel, sand, valuable metallic substances, rock, and rock quarries.

Multi-Family Housing: As used in this Plan, all housing which is designed to accommodate three or more households.

Natural Resource Lands: Agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands primarily devoted to commercial production and having long-term commercial significance.

Policies: Policies embrace the general goals of the County. Policies define course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions.

Public Facilities: Streets, roads, highways, sidewalks, domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and recreational facilities, and schools

Private Sector: The part of the economy that is not under direct government control.

Public Sector: The part of the economy that is controlled by the government.

Public Services: Fire protection and suppression, law enforcement, public health, education, recreation, environmental protection, and other governmental services.

Regional Transportation Plan: The transportation plan for the regionally designated transportation system that is produced by the Regional Transportation Planning Organization.

Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO): The voluntary organization conforming to RCW 47.80.020, consisting of local governments within a region containing one or more counties that have common transportation interests.

Rural Lands: All lands which are not within an UGA and are not designated as natural resource lands primarily devoted to the commercial production of and having long-term commercial significance for production of agricultural products, timber, or the extraction of minerals.

Sewer Systems: All facilities, including approved on-site disposal facilities, used in the collection, transmission, storage, treatment, or discharge of any waterborne waste, whether domestic in origin or a combination of domestic, commercial, or industrial waste.

Shall: To guide the County, the use of the terms "shall," "will," "should," and "may" in policies determine the level of discretion the County can exercise in making future and specific land use, budget, development regulation and other decisions. "Shall" and "will" in a policy mean that it is mandatory for the County to carry out the policy, even if a time frame is not included. "Shall" and "will" are imperative and nondiscretionary—-the County must make decisions based on what the policy says to do. "May" in a policy means that it is in the County's interest to carry out the policy, but the County has total discretion in making decisions. "Must" in a policy means a mandate; the action is required. "Should" in a policy means: noncompulsory guidance, in which cost, availability of funding, and public benefit associated with the policy's purpose are considered as part of the implementation decision; establishes that the County has discretion in making decisions.

Single Family Housing: As used in this Plan, a single family detached housing unit designed for occupancy by not more than one household

Solid Waste Handling Facilities: Any facilities for the transfer or ultimate disposal of solid waste, including landfills and transfer stations.

Urban Growth: Growth that makes intensive use of land for the location of buildings, structures, and impermeable surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use of such land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources, rural uses, rural development, and designated natural resource lands. When allowed to spread over wide areas, urban growth typically requires urban governmental services. "Characterized by urban growth" refers to land having urban growth located on it or to land located adjacent to an area with urban growth and thus to be appropriate for urban growth.

Urban Growth Areas (UGAs): Those areas designated by a county pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110.

Wetland: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape

amenities. However, wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas to mitigate conversion of wetlands, if permitted by the County and other government agencies.

Appendix C
County-wide Review of Natural Resource Lands Memorandum

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Appendix D
Map Folio

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Appendix E

Countywide Planning Policies

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Appendix F
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Appendix G
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Appendix H
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