

Ordinance 768

Amends portions of sections 31.02.050, 31.02.130, and 31.02.285, of Chapter 31.02, Countywide Comprehensive Plan, by adding definitions of rural character, rural development, and rural governmental services; and changing the definitions of urban growth, essential public facilities; and related plan policies

**Chapter 31.02**

**COUNTY-WIDE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**31.02.050 Definitions.**

(17) "Essential public facilities" ~~include those means~~ means facilities that are typically difficult to site, such as airports, State education facilities, and State or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140, State and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, and in-patient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes, and secure community transition facilities as defined in RCW 71.09.020.

(30) "Rural areas or rural land" means land located outside of designated urban growth areas and outside of designated agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands of long-term significance under this comprehensive plan.

(31) "Rural character" means the existing and preferred patterns of land use and development established for lands designated as rural areas or lands under this comprehensive plan. Rural characteristics include but are not limited to:

(a) Open fields and woodlots interspersed with homesteads and serviced by small rural commercial clusters; and

(b) Low residential densities, small-scale agriculture, woodlot forestry, wildlife habitat, clean water, clean air, outdoor recreation, and low traffic volumes; and

(c) Areas in which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation predominate over the built environment; and

(d) Lifestyles and economies common to areas designated as rural areas and lands under this Plan; and

(e) Visual landscapes that are traditionally found in areas designated rural areas and lands under this Plan; and

(f) Areas that are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; and

(g) Areas that reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development; and

(h) Areas that generally do not require the extension of urban governmental services; and

(i) Areas that are consistent with the protection of natural surface water flows and ground water and surface water recharge and discharge areas.

(32) "Rural development" means development outside the urban growth area and outside agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170. Rural development can consist of a variety of uses and residential densities, including clustered residential development, at levels that are consistent with the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the rural element. Rural development does not refer to agriculture or forestry activities that may be conducted in rural areas

(33) Rural governmental services" or "rural services" means those public services and public facilities historically and typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas and may include domestic water systems, fire and police protection services, transportation and public transit services, and other public utilities associated with rural development and normally not associated with urban areas. Rural services do not include storm or sanitary sewers except as otherwise authorized by RCW 36.70A.110(4)

(34) "Shall" means the statement is mandatory, and the action so stated is required to be done without discretion by decision-makers. The use of "shall" in a statement indicates that the action is imperative and ministerial.

(35) "Should," used in a statement, indicates that discretion may be used in deciding whether or not to take action. The use of "should" is intended to give decision-makers discretion in matters where exceptions are warranted by such factors as physical hardships and special circumstances or when funding must be taken into consideration.

(36) "Transportation facilities" includes capital facilities related to air, water or land transportation.

(37) "Urban growth areas" means those areas designated by Clallam County pursuant to the policies in the County-wide Planning Policy and the Comprehensive Plan.

(38) "Urban growth" ~~refers to~~ means 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 natural resource lands designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170. A pattern of more intensive rural development as provided in RCW 36.70A.070(g)(d) is not urban growth. When allowed to spread over wide areas, urban growth typically requires urban governmental services.

(39) "Urban services" include those services historically and typically delivered by cities or other identified service provider, such as a utility district, and which at a minimum include the provision for sanitary waste, solid waste disposal systems, water systems, urban roads and pedestrian facilities, public transportation systems, stormwater systems, police and fire and emergency service systems, electrical and communication systems, school and health care facilities, and neighborhood and/or community parks.

(40) "Wetlands" includes those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water 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. Regulated wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands 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. Wetlands created as mitigation and wetlands modified for approved land use activities shall be considered as regulated wetlands.

### **31.02.130 Forest land issues.**

(5) Essential Public Facilities in Forest Lands. Essential public facilities are public capital facilities of a Countywide or Statewide nature which are typically difficult to site. ~~These facilities include airports, State education facilities, State or regional transportation facilities, State and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities and in-patient facilities, such as substance abuse, mental health and group homes. Those~~ Essential public facilities which require locations where land use conflicts are minimized could ~~may~~ be sited in commercial forest lands when suitable

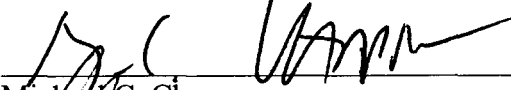
sites cannot be located within existing urban growth areas or rural areas to minimize land use conflicts.

**31.02.285 Public utilities, facilities, and services.**

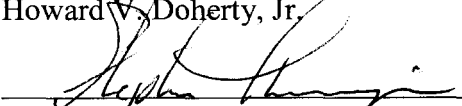
(8) Essential Public Facilities. [Policy No. 17] Essential public facilities are public capital facilities of a Countywide or Statewide nature which are typically difficult to site. These facilities include airports, State education facilities, State or regional transportation facilities, State and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities and in-patient facilities, such as substance abuse, mental health and group homes. Siting of these facilities in forest or rural lands should be considered because these types of facilities might require locations where land use conflicts are minimized. Essential public facilities may be located in designated commercial forest or rural lands provided the County finds that such facilities cannot otherwise be located in urban areas, are largely self-contained or served by urban governmental services in a manner that adjacent rural or urban development is not promoted, and the facility does not cause nuisances (noise, dust, light, etc.) on adjacent properties that cannot be adequately mitigated. The siting of essential public facilities in resource lands should not interfere with resource management on adjacent resource lands.

ADOPTED this twenty-fourth day of January 2005

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Michael C. Chapman

  
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Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

  
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Stephen P. Tharinger

ATTEST:

  
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Trish Perrott, CMC, Clerk of the Board