

2026-2046 Comp Plan Update

Presented by

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Presentation Content

- Public Outreach
- Schedule
- Comp Plan Draft Elements
 - Introduction
 - Vision
 - Rural
 - Resource

Public Outreach

- Online survey results > 160 responses
- Preparing summary to consider updates to Comp Plan elements
- Public open houses anticipated Q2 2026





Schedule

- **Oct 2025** - Draft Elements for County review (first half)
- **Nov, 5 2025** – Comp Plan Workshop
- **Dec 2025** – Draft Elements for County review (second half)
- **Jan 2026** – Comp Plan Workshop #2
- **March 2026** – SEPA Public Notice
- **March/April 2026** – Public Workshops
- **April-June 2026** – PC/BOCC 60-day Review
- **July-Sept 2026** – Commerce 60-day Review
- **Oct-Dec 2026** – Comp Plan adoption

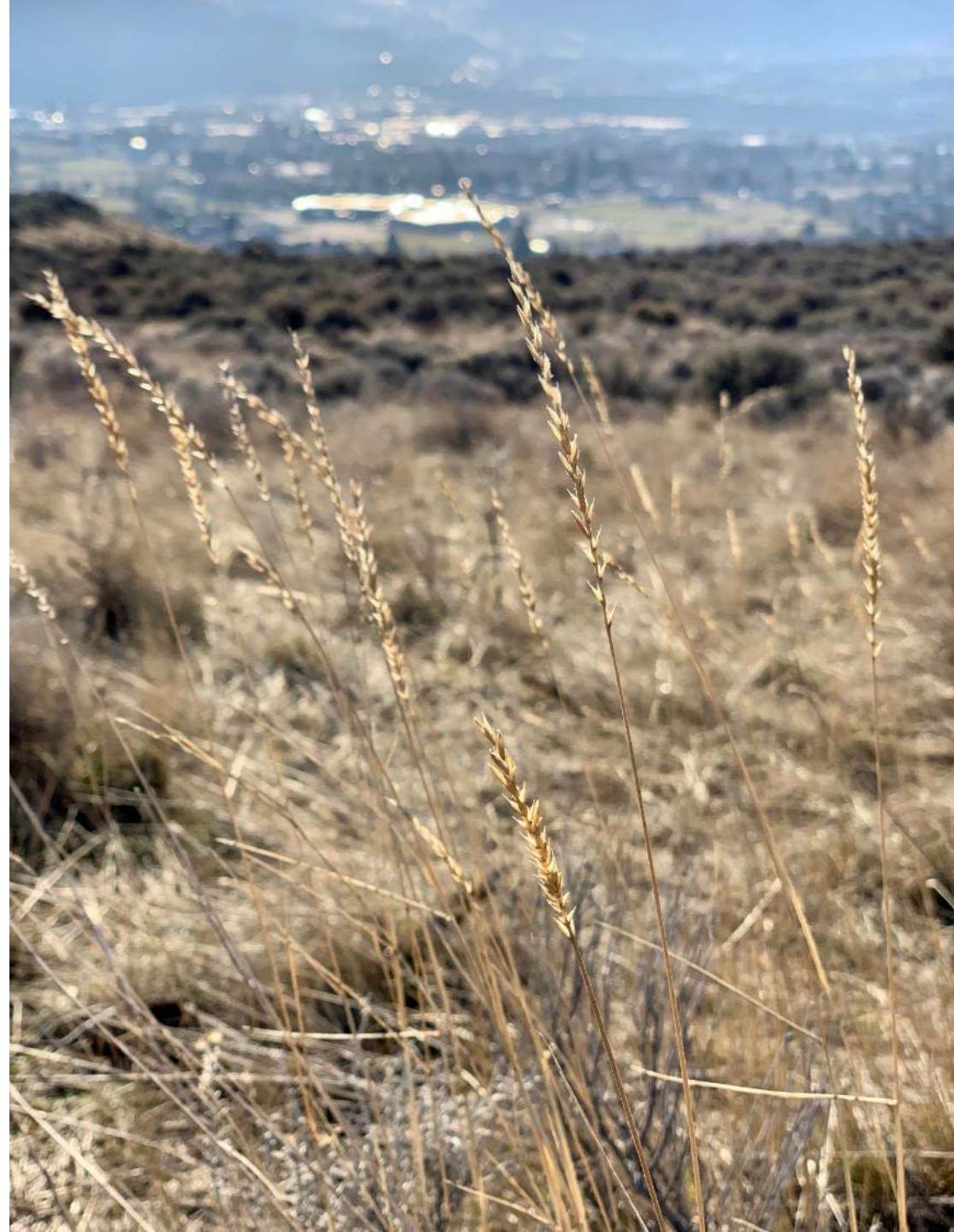
Comprehensive Plan Elements (First Half)

- Introduction
- Vision
- Rural
- Resource



Introduction (Chapter 1)

- Minor updates to code references and related text
- Some data may be updated with other plan updates that are still in process (e.g., transportation element)
- May replace code language with more Douglas County



Vision (Chapter 2)

- Updated from the 2021 version
- Consistency with 2024-2025 Economic Development Strategic Plan for Douglas County
- Consistency with November 29, 2024 BOCC workshop visioning discussion



Communities are increasingly using visioning as a public participation technique. Its purpose is to build consensus regarding a community's common future. Visioning is a useful and accepted part of the comprehensive planning process.

"A vision is like a lighthouse, which illuminates rather than limits, giving direction rather than destination."

—James J. Moore, *Awakening First*

Using Visioning in a Comprehensive Planning Process

Anna Haines

What is visioning?

Visioning is a process by which a community defines the future it wants. Through public involvement, communities identify their purpose, core values and vision of the future.

Visioning:

- Emphasizes community assets rather than needs.
- Assesses community options and opportunities on the basis of shared purposes and values.
- Stresses early and continuous public involvement in the process.
- Acts as a stand-alone process or part of a comprehensive planning process.

TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS

- Economic sectors: agriculture, manufacturing, services, tourism, others.
- Organizations: art and culture, unions, churches, environmental, youth, others.
- Local government: elected officials, police, transportation, housing, others.
- Personal characteristics: age, ethnicity/race, sex, income level, homeowners/renters, others.
- Political views: conservative/liberal/moderate and pro- and anti-growth

Figure 1. Steps in a visioning process

Step 1 ➡	Step 2 ➡	Step 3 ➡	Step 4 ➡	Step 5
Get started	Community visioning workshop	Establish task forces	Thematic visioning workshops	Community feedback workshop

A visioning exercise can bring a community together as people recognize their shared values and purposes, and articulate a shared vision of their community. The vision serves to lay out what the community should look like physically, socially and environmentally in 5, 10 or 20 years. A visioning exercise creates a sense of ownership in community residents to the extent that they want to see their vision come to fruition over a period of years.

A consensus-building technique

Within a comprehensive planning process, visioning can be used as a consensus-building technique. Visioning facilitates the development of an effective comprehensive plan by focusing attention, "on how to organize collective thought and action within an inter-organizational network in which no one person, group, organization or institution is fully in charge".

Multi-jurisdictional initiatives, for example, may benefit by using visioning to build consensus on core values and to help people realize that despite differences they share many of the same long-term goals.

Rural Element (Chapter 4)

- Added new goals and policies to strengthen and protect rural character
- Added definitions and goals and policies related to Rural Service Center, (RSCs), Planned Unit Development (PUD), and Limited Areas of More Intensive Rural Development (LAMIRDs)
- Added state policy for encouraging rural development “clustering”

b. Policies that limit urban services in rural areas.

[RCW 36.70A.110\(4\)](#) amended in 2021¶

Note: The plan may include optional techniques such as limited areas of more intensive rural development (LAMIRDs), clustering, density transfer, design guidelines, and conservation easements to accommodate rural uses not characterized by urban growth as specified in [RCW 36.70A.070\(5\)\(b\), \(d\)](#) amended in 2021. (SB

Resource Element (Chapter 5)


- Added agricultural policy defining allowed agricultural accessory uses and activities and nonagricultural accessory uses and activities
- Added new agricultural policies encouraging the retention of specialty crops and agritourism
- Added new policies that encourage siting mineral and agricultural uses near compatible uses

c. For designated agricultural land, regulations encourage nonagricultural uses to be limited to lands with poor soils or otherwise not suitable for agricultural purposes. Accessory uses should be located, designed and operated to support the continuation of agricultural uses. [RCW 36.70A.177\(3\)\(b\)](#) ☐

d. Counties must conduct a comprehensive countywide analysis when classifying, designating and de-designating natural resource lands. [WAC 365-190-040\(10\)\(c\)](#) ☐

e. Designate mineral lands and associated regulations as required by [RCW 36.70A.131](#) and [WAC 365-190-040\(5\)](#). ¶

For more information review the [WA State Dept. of Natural Resources \(DNR\)'s Geology Division site](#) ☐



**DOUGLAS
COUNTY
2046**

What questions
do you have?