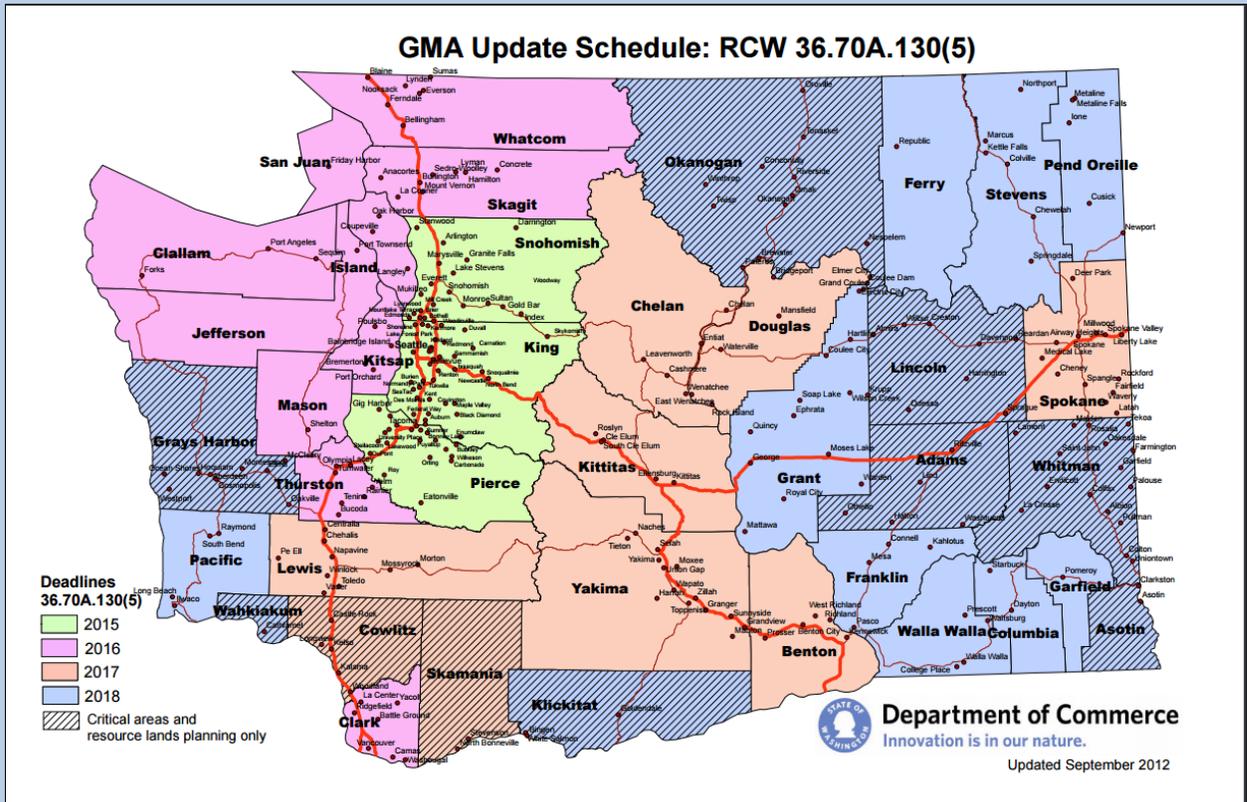


Appendix A

Agricultural Resource Lands Designation: Selected Washington Counties Fully Planning Under the Growth Management Act



Chelan County Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Element

Chelan County is in the periodic update process with a 2017 scheduled adoption date. The text below is from the 2000 Chelan County Comprehensive Plan.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE LANDS

Chelan County contains an abundance of agricultural lands that are important to the economy of the area. It must be recognized that in order to continue to exist, orchards must remain profitable. In an attempt to encourage existing and future agricultural development as a viable land use and a significant economic activity within the County, agricultural lands of long term commercial significance have been designated according to the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's classification for prime and unique farmland soils, and criteria outlined in WAC 365-190-050. These areas have been identified on the land use map. The Growth Management Act defines "long term commercial significance" to include the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land.

Policy LU 9.5: Agricultural resource lands should be classified and designated based on the criteria and procedures established in WAC 365-190-040, and 050,, with special consideration given to the determination of whether agricultural lands considered for designation are viable as long term commercially significant agricultural land.

Rationale: Agricultural Resource lands should be identified based on the best available information at the time of the designation.

http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/files/community-development/documents/comps_plan/comp_plan_amended%202015%20Res%202016-09.pdf

Clark County Comprehensive Plan, Agricultural Lands

Agricultural land is defined by the GMA as "land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticulture, viticulture, floriculture, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production" (WAC 365--190-050). Long term commercial significance *"includes the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land."*

Quality soils are a primary factor in classifying and designating agricultural resource lands (Figure 22). DCTED requires that the land capability classification system of the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service be used in classifying agricultural resource land. This system includes eight classes of soils published in soil surveys. As with forestlands, the effects of proximity to population areas and the possibility of more intense uses of the land are important factors in classifying agricultural lands.

DCTED provides 10 indicators to assess these factors; however, it is left up to the local jurisdictions to interpret these guidelines in the designation of resource lands:

- the availability of public facilities,
- tax status,
- the availability of public services,
- relationship or proximity to urban growth areas,
- predominant parcel size,
- land use settlement patterns and their compatibility with agricultural practices,
- intensity of nearby land uses,
- history of land development permits issued nearby,
- land values under alternative uses, and
- proximity to markets.

The classification and designation of agricultural land began by quantifying and mapping DCTED's ten indicators. Maps were created showing prime and unique soil, agricultural cover, forest cover, parcel size, tax status, physical structures, roads, utilities and zoning. Heavily forested areas and urban areas were not mapped.

The maps were used to identify Clark County's most productive farmland. This process identified farm areas that included major patterns of high quality soils and agricultural activity in areas with generally larger parcels. These lands became candidate areas for consideration as agricultural resource lands of long-term commercial significance. DCTED's guidelines again were used to more closely examine candidate areas with serious limiting factors and to determine the relative value of candidate areas for agricultural use. The Vancouver Lake lowland candidate area, with its high quality of soils, large parcels, and wildlife values, was placed in a special class. The remaining candidate areas were divided into three tiers. After completion of this work, looking at forestry and agriculture on an individual basis, it was found that there were a number of areas where farming activity was occurring adjacent to forestry and vice versa or where parcels were not identified up because both farming and forestry activity was occurring on the site, with neither being the predominant use. Therefore, all the "edges" of the resource areas were reevaluated. Reconsideration of the land use designations in these areas was done by a task force in 1998. Through that review, much of the 35,000 acres of land designated as Agri-Forest under the 1994 Comprehensive Plan was redesignated to Rural 20, 10 or 5, representing 20, 10 or 5 acre minimum lot sizes. Approximately 3,500 acres of the land was disputed by an alternative task force contingent. Consideration was remanded back to the county by the courts. The Clark County Board of Commissioners voted to retain the rural designation rather than a resource designation.

Lewis County Comprehensive Plan, Natural Resource Lands Sub-Element

Policy NR 1.3 Designate agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance as follows:

1. Identify lands that are primarily devoted to the commercial production of agricultural products enumerated in RCW 36.70A.030(2) of the Growth Management Act.

2. Identify lands that are classified as having prime farmland soils as determined by the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) that occupy a significant partition of the parcel. Prime farmland soils include soils classified by NRCS as “prime farmland,” Prime farmland if drained,” “prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season,” and “prime farmland if irrigated.” (NRCS maintains a list of soil mapping units that meet the criteria for prime farmland. 7CFR 657.4).
3. Lands with soils that are classified by NRCS as “prime farmland if drained” or “prime farmland if irrigated” are presumed to be drained or irrigated in the absence of evidence to the contrary; Lewis County Comprehensive Plan Amended 2010 Ordinances 1218 and 1219 Land Use Element 4-43
4. Identify lands that have non-soil dependent agricultural uses such as poultry, Christmas tree, horticulture, and fish hatchery operations;
5. Consider the combined effects of proximity to population areas and the possibility of more intense uses of the land as indicated by:
 - (a) The availability of public facilities;
 - (b) Tax status;
 - (c) The availability of public services
 - (d) Relationship or proximity to urban areas;
 - (e) Predominant parcel size (20 acres is considered a suitable predominant parcel Size for commercial agriculture;
 - (f) Land use settlement patterns and their compatibility with agricultural practices;
 - (g) Intensity of nearby land uses;
 - (h) History of land development permits issued nearby;
 - (i) Land values under alternative uses; and
 - (j) Proximity of markets

file:///C:/E2%20Land%20Use/ACTIVE%20E2%20CLIENTS/Pierce%20CO%20ARL%20Study/County%20Codes/Lewis_County%204LandUseElement2010.pdf

Pacific County Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas and Natural Resources Element, Section 3.5, Agricultural Resources

3.5.2 IDENTIFYING AND CLASSIFYING AGRICULTURE LANDS

Section 17 of the GMA (RCW 36.70A.170) requires counties to identify agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance. RCW 36.70A.030(2) defines agricultural land as “land primarily devoted to the

commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, 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, finfish in upland hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production.”

WAC 365-190-050 identifies a three part test for designating agricultural land of long-term commercial significance. First, the land is not already characterized by urban growth. Second, the land is used or capable of being used for agricultural production. This factor evaluates whether lands are well suited to agricultural uses based primarily on their physical and geographic characteristics. Third, the land has long-term commercial significance for agriculture based on several applicable criteria including the following:

- Classification of prime and unique soils as mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Services;
- Availability of public facilities, including roads;
- Tax status;
- Availability of public services;
- Relationship or proximity to urban growth areas and to markets and suppliers;
- Predominant parcel size;
- Land use settlement patterns and their compatibility with agricultural practices;
- Intensity of nearby land uses;
- History of land development permits issued nearby; and
- Land values under alternative uses.

Agricultural land in Pacific County is classified as: (1) "agricultural land of long-term commercial significance" which includes all land devoted to the production of aquaculture, cranberries, and/or other bog related crops; and (2) "agricultural land of local importance" which includes diked tidelands involved in existing and ongoing agricultural activities as of the adoption date of Ordinance No. 147/147A on April 13, 1999 and containing the soil types listed in Table 3-1 as defined in the "Soil Survey of Grays Harbor County Area, Pacific County, and Wahkiakum County, Washington, 1986, Soil Conservation Service, USDA".

Table 3-1 Agricultural Land of Local Importance

Soil Types SCS Map Unit: 104 Ocosta silty clay loam and 147 Seastrand variant muck

3.5.3 MAPS AND REFERENCES

Agricultural lands are identified on the Pacific County Comprehensive Land Use Map as Rural Agriculture while they are designated as Agriculture on the zoning maps. Shellfish areas are not mapped on the Pacific County Comprehensive Land Use Map, rather their location is identified in the text of Pacific County Ordinance No. 153, Land Use.

[http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/ordres/2010%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20\(BOCC%20Approved%20Final\)%2010%2026%2010%202.pdf](http://www.co.pacific.wa.us/ordres/2010%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20(BOCC%20Approved%20Final)%2010%2026%2010%202.pdf)

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Element, Resource Lands, Agricultural

Agricultural lands are distinct from rural lands and include lands that have been designated as having long-term commercial agricultural significance. In November 1991, Pierce County, on an interim basis, classified and designated agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance, which were located outside the Urban Growth Areas. The criteria for designation were reviewed and the interim criteria became the final criteria for the adopted 1994 Comprehensive Plan.

While the expression of planning goals in the GMA is linked to natural resource industries, including productive timber and fisheries, a separate policy for agricultural lands was proposed because of their unique importance in Pierce County and their relationship to Urban Growth Area boundaries and policies. Although the GMA does not expressly require a countywide planning policy on agricultural lands, the requirement was added by the Interlocal Agreement: Framework Agreement for the Adoption of the Countywide Planning Policies (Pierce County Council Resolution No. R91-172, September 24, 1991).

In 2015, as part of the Compliance Review required by RCW 36.70A.130, the County reevaluated the Agricultural Lands policies and established a revised land use designation criteria. The modified criteria provide further protection, management, and future development of the designated lands

GOAL LU-84 Designate Agricultural Resource Lands (ARL) based on the Growth Management Act definition and the Minimum Guidelines of WAC 365-190-050.

LU-84.1 Agricultural Resource Lands are lands meeting the definition in RCW 36.70A.030(2): "... land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, 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, finfish in upland hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production."

LU-84.1.1 The focus for preservation of agricultural lands must be on lands not already characterized by urban growth, lands that are used or capable of being used for agricultural production, or lands that have long-term commercial significance for agriculture.

LU-84.1.2 Only rural lands shall be considered for the Agricultural Resource Lands designation.

LU-84.1.3 Consider excluding properties already characterized by urban growth or characterized by more intensive rural development, such as:

LU-84.1.3.1 Lands designated as rural centers;

LU-84.1.3.2 Lands rezoned to rural centers;

LU-84.1.3.3 Lands that are part of a preliminary plat approved prior to February 1, 2005, or a final plat recorded prior to February 1, 2005, including any associated open space or other non-buildable tracts identified on the face of the plat;

LU-84.1.3.4 Lands covered by a non-residential development permit for uses other than agriculture.

LU-84.1.3.5 Lands with mobile home parks; and

LU-84.1.3.6 Properties owned by governmental agencies prior to the effective date of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update for public use as identified in a Capital Facilities Plan adopted as part of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan.

LU-84.1.4 Designated forest and timber lands as identified by Pierce County, RCW 84.33, and RCW 84.34 shall be excluded.

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/38483>

Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan, General Policies

GOAL LU 7 Conserve agriculture and agricultural land through a variety of planning techniques, regulations, incentive and acquisition methods.

Objective LU 7.A Classify and designate agricultural land of long-term commercial significance.

LU Policies

7.A.1 The county shall classify and designate farmlands in three classes: Riverway Commercial Farmland, Upland Commercial Farmland, and Local Commercial Farmland as shown on the Future Land Use map and shown in greater detail on a set of assessor's maps which will be part of the implementation ordinances.

7.A.2 Landowners may request in writing a review of the farmland designations as part of the county's annual GMA comprehensive plan amendment process.

7.A.3 The county shall designate farmland as required by the GMA, and consider the guidance provided for designating agricultural lands of long term commercial significance adopted by the State. In addition, farmland designations and expansions of such designations on contiguous lands should be made considering all of the following criteria:

(a) The land is prime farmland as defined by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS) or consists of other Class III soils in the SCS capability classification;

(b) The land is shown to be devoted to agriculture by:

1. the adopted future land use map;

2. a current zoning classification of Agriculture-10 acre; and

3. was identified in the 1982 agriculture land inventory, the 1990 aerial photo interpretation, or the 1991 field identification of land devoted to agriculture;

- (c) The land is located outside a UGA;
- (d) The land is located outside a sewer service boundary; and
- (e) The land consists of a parcel of 10 acres or greater in areas designated as Upland Commercial Farmland or Local Commercial Farmland.

7.A.4 If requested by a landowner, the county shall consider adding farm lands to the commercial farmland designation if they meet the one of the following criteria:

- (a) the lands are adjacent to designated farmland and are a minimum of 10 acres;
- (b) the lands are not adjacent to designated farmland and they are a minimum of forty (40) acres; or General Policy Plan Land Use LU-48 Adopted June 10, 2015; Effective Date: July 2, 2015
- (c) the redesignation request is part of an application to opt into the Transfer of Development Rights program and the lands are a minimum of five acres.

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/8723>

Spokane County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 4, Natural Resource Lands, Designation of Natural Resources

Agricultural Land Designation Criteria NR.1.4

Lands meeting the following criteria shall be designated as Spokane County Large Tract Agricultural Resource Lands of Long-term Commercial Significance:

- a) Lands predominantly used for or capable of long-term commercial agricultural production.
- b) Lands with large areas of contiguous ownership and parcel sizes predominately 40 acres or larger.
- c) Lands that produce or are capable of producing predominately annual crop rotations including small grains, non-forage legumes and grass seed.
- d) Land that has been designated as Large Tract Agriculture may only be redesignated or rezoned consistent with the agricultural zones reclassification criteria as specified in the Spokane County Zoning Code.

NR.1.5 Lands that do not meet all the criteria for the large tract agricultural designation but do meet the following criteria shall be designated as Spokane County Small Tract Agricultural Resource Lands of Long-term Commercial Significance.

- a) Lands predominantly used for or capable of commercial agricultural production.
- b) Lands which produce or are capable of producing crops of local significance such as dairies, orchards, truck crops, vineyards, Christmas trees/wood lots, foraged crops, small grains, non-foraged legumes and grass.

<http://www.spokanecounty.org/documentcenter/view/1222>

Walla Walla County Comprehensive Plan, Rural and Resource Lands Element,

6.3.3 Agricultural Lands

Agricultural Designations While invaluable to the economy, agricultural operations can be noisy, odorous, and even dangerous. Serious conflicts are inevitable when other kinds of development, especially medium to high-density residential housing, are allowed within or adjacent to an active agricultural land use. New residential neighbors not accustomed to agricultural practices may dislike the noise, dust, spraying, and glare. The result is increased conflict between residential dwellers and farmers because of the impacts associated with normal farming operations. Recognizing the long-term commercial importance of agriculture to Walla Walla's economy, the quality of farming lands, and historic activity patterns, the County developed the following agricultural designations encompassing agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance:

- Exclusive Agriculture
- Primary Agriculture
- General Agriculture
- Agriculture Residential

Each of these designations is described below. See Map LU-1 in Chapter 5 for the locations of County agricultural designations. See also Maps RL-9 and RL-10 for locations of prime and unique farmlands.

Exclusive Agriculture

All lands designated as Exclusive Agricultural lands are lands of long-term commercial significance. This designation is intended to be characterized only by land uses that are distinctive of the agricultural sector. Historically, this zone designation resulted from a rezone at the request of land owners in the Russell Creek area. Residences are an allowed use in this area, with limited home occupations that are clearly incidental to the agricultural nature of these areas. Agricultural accessory uses and non-agricultural accessory uses and activities that support, promote, or sustain agricultural operations and production are permitted so long as they are consistent with the provisions of Chapter 36.70A.177 of the GMA. Accessory uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications should be allowed only by conditional use permit. Natural resource-related industry is considered as a priority compatible use, with those uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications being allowed only by conditional use permit. The allowed density in this designation is one dwelling unit per 120 acres.

Land divisions up to four lots that comply with the minimum lot size of 120 acres will be allowed, provided that adequate public facilities, utilities, and services such as water, wastewater disposal, and access to public roads are available concurrent with the final approval of the plat. There are no other land division opportunities or clustering provisions allowed in this land use designation.

Primary Agriculture

All lands designated as Primary Agricultural lands are lands of long-term commercial significance. This land use designation is intended for areas that are designated as agricultural lands characterized to some degree by limited irrigated acreages. This designation is intended to maintain the viability of agricultural resource lands of long-term commercial significance. This land is to be characterized by land uses that are distinctive of the agricultural sector. Allowed uses in this designation are residences and limited home occupations that are clearly incidental to the agricultural nature of these areas. Agricultural accessory uses and non-agricultural accessory uses and activities that support, promote or sustain agricultural operations and production are permitted consistent with the provisions of Chapter 36.70A.177 of the GMA. Accessory uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications should be allowed only by conditional use permit. Natural resource-related industry is considered a priority compatible use, with those uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications allowed only by conditional use permit. The allowed density in this designation is one dwelling unit per 40 acres. Outside of those lands designated by the Resource Lands Committee as agriculture lands of primary significance or unique lands, as shown on Maps RL-9 and RL-10, land divisions up to four lots that comply with the minimum lot size of 40 acres will be allowed, provided that adequate provision of public facilities, utilities, and services such as water, wastewater disposal and access to public roads is available concurrent with the final approval of the short plat. Land divisions creating more than four lots will be allowed only through the cluster development standards in Title 17 of the Walla Walla County Code, provided that in no case shall more than 12 lots be created. Rural and Resource Lands Element Walla Walla County Comprehensive Plan 6-30 December 2009 Cluster developments that seek to preserve large tracts of resource land while still allowing residential development on smaller lot sizes are the preferred method of residential land development, provided the overall density of development does not exceed one dwelling unit per 40 acres. All cluster developments shall be implemented by development regulations that address the minimum provisions identified in the goals and policies of this sub-element to ensure the resource use is preserved and protected through the development process.

General Agriculture

All lands designated as General Agricultural lands are lands of long-term commercial significance. This land use designation is intended for areas that are designated as agricultural lands with a mix of semi-populated irrigated lands. This designation is intended to maintain the viability of resource lands of long-term commercial significance. This designation will be located in areas of close proximity to agriculture, residential and existing transportation corridors, and populated areas. This designation is characterized by agricultural land uses that also reflect existing residential development. Limited home occupations that are clearly incidental to the agricultural nature of these areas will be allowed. Agricultural accessory uses and nonagricultural accessory uses and activities that support, promote or sustain agricultural operations and production are permitted consistent with the provisions of Chapter 36.70A.177 of the GMA. Accessory uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications should be allowed only by conditional use permit. Natural resource-related industry is considered as a compatible use, with those uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications being allowed only by conditional use permit. The allowed density in this designation is one dwelling unit per 20 acres.

Cluster developments that seek to preserve large tracts of resource land while still allowing residential development on smaller lot sizes are the preferred method of residential land development, provided the overall density of development does not exceed one dwelling per 20 acres. All cluster developments shall be implemented by development regulations that address the minimum provisions identified in the goals and policies of this sub-element to ensure the resource use is preserved and protected through the development process. Because 20 acre lots are conducive to small scale agricultural uses, 20 acre lots may be developed as provided below:

- Lands not designated by the Resource Lands Committee as agriculture lands of primary significance or unique lands.
 - Excluding those lands designated by the Resource Lands Committee as agriculture lands of primary significance or unique lands, as shown on Maps RL-9 and RL-10, land divisions up to four lots that comply with the minimum lot size of 20 acres will be allowed. Land divisions creating more than four lots will be allowed through the cluster development provisions, provided that in no case shall more than 12 lots be created.
- Lands designated by the Resource Lands Committee as agriculture lands of primary significance or unique lands. In order to conserve agricultural lands and promote economically viable small scale agricultural uses, land divisions on lands designated by the Resource Lands Committee as agriculture lands of primary significance or unique lands, as shown on maps RL-9 and RL-10, may be accomplished in two ways:
 1. Lots may be created through cluster developments; or
 2. Twenty acre lots may be created only if a recorded instrument preserves a resource use as the primary land use on each lot.

Agriculture Residential

All lands designated as Agricultural Residential lands are lands of long-term commercial significance. This land use designation is intended for areas that are currently in agricultural use, that are located adjacent to existing rural lands, rural activity centers, and urban growth areas. Typically, these areas are in smaller land ownerships with higher density residential development than in other agricultural areas of the County. This land use designation is primarily agricultural with a mix of residential land uses. Limited home occupations that are clearly incidental to the agricultural nature of these areas will be allowed. A limited amount of commercial-tourism activity will be allowed in this district, while limited commercial businesses that support agriculture will be allowed outright, with those uses having a high nuisance value, safety issues, or environmental implications allowed only by conditional use permit. Large-scale natural resource-processing industry is not considered a compatible use, except on a limited basis. The allowed density in this designation is one dwelling unit per 10 acres.

Outside of those lands designated by the Resource Lands Committee as agriculture lands of primary significance or unique lands, as shown on Maps RL-9 and RL-10, land divisions that comply with the minimum lot size of 10 acres will be allowed, provided that adequate provision of public facilities, utilities,

and services such as water, wastewater disposal and access to public roads is available concurrent with the final approval of the short plat. The maximum number of lots will continue to be determined at the rate of one unit per ten acres.

Cluster developments that seek to preserve large tracts of resource land while still allowing residential development on smaller lot sizes are the preferred method of residential land development, provided the overall density of development does not exceed one dwelling unit per 10 acres. All cluster developments shall be implemented by development regulations that address the minimum provisions identified in the goals and policies of this sub-element to ensure the resource use is preserved and protected through the development process.

http://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/departments/comdev/Docs/06_Ch06_RurResLands_11910sd.pdf

Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan: Planning Commission Recommended Draft November 25, 2015 Chapter 8 – Resource Lands

Policy 8A-3:

The criteria for designating or de-designating lands under the Agriculture land use designation shall be considered on an area-wide basis. When applying the following criteria, the process should result in designating an amount of agricultural resource lands sufficient to maintain and enhance the economic viability of the agricultural industry in the county over the long term, and to retain agricultural support businesses, such as processors, farm suppliers, and equipment maintenance and repair facilities. The criteria are as follows:

1. The land is not already characterized by urban growth. In determining this factor, the County should consider WAC 3 365-196-310 and RCW 36.70A.030.
2. The land is used or capable of being used for agricultural production. In making this determination, the County shall use the land-capability classification system of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. These eight classes are incorporated into map units and are based on the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land.
3. The land has long term commercial significance for agriculture. In determining this factor, consider the following nonexclusive criteria:
 - a. The majority of the area contains Prime Farmland Soils as determined by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - b. The area may contain 100-year floodplains as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
 - c. Land use settlement patterns, the intensity of nearby uses, and the history of approved land development permits are generally compatible with agricultural practices. Existing land uses

are primarily full-time agriculture intermixed with part-time agriculture and woodlots; and minimal commitment to non-farm uses has been made.

- d. A majority of the area is composed of agricultural operations that have historically been and continue to be economically viable.
- e. The predominate parcel sizes in the area is large enough to adequately maintain agricultural operations are generally greater than forty acres
- f. The availability of public services. Urban utility services including public sewer and water are not planned.
- g. The availability of public facilities such as roads used to transport agricultural products.
- h. Special purpose districts that are oriented to enhancing agricultural operations exist, including such as drainage improvement, watershed improvement, and flood control exist.
- i. The areas has a pattern of landowner capital investment in agricultural operations improvements including irrigation, drainage, manure storage, the presence of barns and support buildings, enhanced livestock feeding techniques, agricultural worker housing, etc.
- j. The areas contain a predominance of parcels that have current use tax assessment derived from the Open Space Taxation Act.
- k. The area's proximity to urban growth areas.
- l. The area's proximity to agricultural markets.
- m. Land value under alternative uses.

<http://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/17292>