



Executive Summary – Planning Commission

Issue Title: Department of Community Development: Year of the Rural Hearing

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Time Required: 60 Minutes

Attendees: Heather Cleveland, Long Range Planner, Community Planning

Action Requested at this Meeting:

- Deliberations, Recommendations, Findings of Fact

Background:

The 2024 Comprehensive Plan was adopted in December 2024 with a major focus on growth in Urban Growth Areas. To allow for focus on the rural communities and lands and specific topics impacting rural areas, the county created the Year of the Rural program for 2025.

The three deliverables for the Year of the Rural include:

- Rural and Resource Lands Chapter Update
- Proposed Code Updates
- Rural Reclassification Requests

The purpose of the Chapter is to define and provide policy directions to preserve and enhance the rural character in the unincorporated portions of Kitsap County which will work in tandem with the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Map.

Proposed code updates include agriculture and child care. Equestrian facility code was postponed to 2026 by the Kitsap Board of County Commissioners on October 13, 2025.

The Board of County Commissioners removed 14 residential reclassifications requests by updating the docket in June 2025. The remaining three reclassification requests are for either Rural Commercial or Rural Industrial designations.

A Programmatic SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was published September 2 with a 2-week comment period ending September 16, 2025.

Draft deliverables were published to the Kitsap County project webpage on September 2, 2025 along with a comment form. Comments received until September 23 will be shared with the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners; comments received through November 10 will be shared with the Board of County Commissioners.

Next Steps:

- October 7, 2025 – Planning Commission Deliberations
- October 21, 2025 – Planning Commission Findings of Fact and Recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners
 - October 27, 2025 – Draft Documents 2.0 Published
- November 10, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners Hearing
- November 24, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners Deliberations
- December 8, 2025 – Board of County Commissioners Adoption

Attachments:

- [Draft Rural and Resource Lands Chapter](#)
- Draft Code Updates
 - [Agriculture](#)
 - [Child Care](#)
 - Equestrian Facilities (postponed to 2026)
- [Draft Rural Reclassification Requests – Staff Report](#)
- [Comment Form through 09/23/25](#)
- [Comment Summary through 09/23/25](#)
- Draft Deliberations/Recommendations Table
- Draft Findings of Fact

Reference:

- [Year of the Rural](#) Project Webpage