

# Kitsap Rural Lands Analysis Technical-Policy Advisory Committee Charter

Prepared August 5, 2026

Prepared by Heather Cleveland, AICP; Reviewed by Jason Walsh

## Introduction

The Committee will review and provide feedback on the Rural Lands Analysis and related findings to help identify policies, programs, and implementation strategies that reflect community values and support the County's long-term vision for rural lands.

From the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update, amended in 2025<sup>1</sup>:

Kitsap County's vision is the protection of rural areas and natural resource lands, including preservation of places of natural beauty, working agriculture and timber lands, community identity, and rural character.

## Goals and Objectives

Goal: Serve as a technical and policy advisory body to review and provide feedback on the Rural Lands Analysis, helping ensure the analysis is technically sound, informed by diverse expertise, and supports future policy and planning decisions for rural Kitsap County.

### Objectives

#### Phase 1: Technical Review

1. Review and validate the baseline data, existing conditions, and historical context prepared by County staff and consultants.
2. Evaluate the analytical framework, methodologies, assumptions, and future land use scenarios.
3. Provide technical expertise on trends, opportunities, constraints, and emerging issues affecting rural lands, natural resources, housing, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

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<sup>1</sup> [Comprehensive Plan 2024](#)

4. Identify additional data, analyses, or considerations needed to strengthen the Rural Lands Analysis.

## Phase 2: Policy and Program Recommendations

1. Review the findings of the Rural Lands Analysis and discuss policy implications.
2. Advise County staff on potential policy options, implementation strategies, and regulatory considerations.
3. Identify opportunities for voluntary programs, incentives, partnerships, and interagency coordination to support rural land stewardship and community goals.
4. Provide feedback on draft recommendations to ensure they are practical, technically supported, and consistent with the Growth Management Act, the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, and other applicable state, regional, and local policies.

## Key Focus Areas

The Working Group will review and provide feedback on Kitsap County's Rural Lands Analysis and related findings to help identify policies and programs that best reflect community values and long-term land use goals. Key areas of focus include:

1. **Existing Conditions and Trends.** Review baseline data, existing conditions, historical context, and emerging trends affecting rural lands to establish a shared understanding of current conditions and future opportunities.
2. **Growth and Development.** Evaluate rural growth patterns, land use, housing, development activity, and associated opportunities and challenges.
3. **Working and Resource Lands.** Review the condition, use, and long-term viability of agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and other resource-based lands.
4. **Rural Economy.** Consider rural businesses, economic vitality, recreation, tourism, and resource-based industries that support rural communities.
5. **Infrastructure and Services.** Assess the relationship between rural development and the availability of infrastructure, public facilities, and essential services.
6. **Natural Systems and Environmental Stewardship.** Review environmental resources, ecosystem services as defined by [RCW 76.09.020](#), and conservation opportunities that support resilient rural landscapes.
7. **Policy and Implementation.** Review public input and technical findings to identify potential policy, regulatory, programmatic, and partnership-based recommendations that support the County's long-term vision for rural lands.

Note: Separate Agriculture, Forestry, and Salmon Recovery focus groups will be working alongside this Rural Lands Analysis, and the work will come together in the Rural Lands Analysis with the added component of development.

## Working Group Timeline

The RLA Technical-Policy Advisory Committee will meet during key milestones of the Rural Lands Analysis project from August 2026 through April 2027. Working group members will be invited to the final project presentation in June/July 2027.

## Meetings

The RLA Technical-Policy Advisory Committee will meet four times at the Kitsap Administrative Building. Meetings are hybrid – in-person is preferred, and an online option will be available. The following dates from 3:00pm - 4:00pm:

- Tuesday, September 22, 2026
- Tuesday, December 1, 2026
- Tuesday, February 2, 2027
- Tuesday, April 13, 2027

## Administration and Facilitation

The Technical-Policy Advisory Committee will be staffed by Kitsap County Community Development Department Long Range Planners: Heather Cleveland and Jason Walsh.

## Representation

| Expertise Area         | Examples                                                   |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Working Lands          | Forestry, Agriculture, Aquaculture                         |
| Natural Resources      | Conservation, Environmental Organizations, Salmon Recovery |
| Land Use & Development | Housing, Real Estate                                       |
| Infrastructure         | Transportation, Utilities, Public Facilities               |
| Economic Vitality      | Rural Business, Tourism, Resource Industries, Navy, KEDA   |
| Public Sector          | Tribal Governments, State Agencies, Public Land Managers   |

## Reference Materials

- Reference framework for the Land Capacity Analysis that will inform the Rural Lands Analysis framework. [FINAL Buildable Lands Report\\_November 2021.pdf](#)
- 2024 Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update – 2025 Update, specifically the Rural and Resource Lands Chapter – drafted with consensus building around rural character, an introduction to the concept of a working lands overlay, LAMIRD development potential, and more. [Comprehensive Plan 2024 - 2025 Update](#)
- 2025 Kitsap County Natural Resources Asset Management Program – identifying natural assets and opportunities for protection and improvement. [KNRAMP State of the Natural Assets 2025.pdf](#)
- 2026-2028 Great Peninsula Conservancy Conservation Plan – noting the three focus areas: wildlife habitat, working lands, and community greenspaces and trails. [GPC 2026-2028 Conservation Plan](#)
- Kitsap County Code Title 19 Critical Areas Ordinance – to acknowledge the regulatory protections in place. [SKM\\_C650i18021622380](#)