

Comprehensive Plan Update

Rural and Resource Lands Proposal

September 16, 2025

I. Introduction

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires each county to include a rural element in their comprehensive plan (RCW 36.70A.070(5)). Local comprehensive plans must also designate agriculture, forestry, and mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance and regulations must be adopted to conserve these lands (RCW 36.70A.060 and 170, referred to in this document as "Resource Lands"). Additionally, the GMA requires that local comprehensive plans must make adequate provisions for existing and projected housing needs of all economic segments of the community, including lower and moderate incomes (RCW 36.70A(2)(d)). The State Legislature amended this statute in 2021 to strengthen the housing provisions with the passage of House Bill 1220.

Rural areas and Resource Lands are located outside urban growth areas (UGAs). The County has undertaken a process to allocate population, housing and employment growth to the Rural and Resource Lands under the provisions of the GMA. This process includes a number of steps, including:

- Preliminary County and city UGA population and employment proposals (2024).
- County Planning Commission review of preliminary city and County population and employment growth proposals (2024).
- County and city approval of non-binding multi-jurisdictional resolutions regarding preliminary population, housing and employment allocations (2025). See Whatcom County Council Resolution 2025-011.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (2025).
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (2025).
- City and County UGA and Rural & Resource Land proposals (2025).
- County Planning Commission review (2025).
- County Council and City Council approval of comprehensive plans (2025-26).

II. Rural and Resource Lands Profile

Whatcom County has designated Rural and Resource Lands on the Comprehensive Plan map as required by the Growth Management Act. These lands, which are located outside UGAs, consist of the following designations and acreages:

Rural Lands

Rural (includes R2A, R5A and R10A zoning)	121,017
Rural Business	194
Rural Community	8,324
Rural Neighborhood	<u>3,071</u>
Subtotal	132,606

Resource Lands

Agriculture	85,820
Commercial Forestry	187,478
Rural Forestry	35,819
Mineral Resource Lands	<u>5,545</u>
Subtotal	314,662

Total Acres: 447,268

The Rural and Resource lands have an estimated 2023 population of 70,985 (Technical Report, p. 10). These areas contain a variety of land uses, including residential, commercial, industrial, home based businesses, agriculture, forestry, mining, parks, schools, and fire stations. The population within the Rural and Resource Lands for Census years is shown below:

Population Growth in Rural and Resource Lands (1990-2020)

Year	Population	Growth for Decade	Average Annual Growth for Decade	Average Annual Growth Rate	Share of Countywide Growth for Decade
1990	45,321				
2000	56,775	11,454	1,145	2.3%	29.3%
2010	64,862	8,087	809	1.3%	23.6%
2020	69,821	4,959	496	0.7%	19.3%

Source: Population data from 1990 and 2000 is from the *Whatcom County Population and Employment Projections and Urban Growth Area Allocations Phase I Technical Report* (BERK, 2013). Population data for 2010 and 2020 from the State Office of Financial Management's Small Area Estimates Program.

The current Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan allocates approximately 84% of the projected population growth over the 20-year planning period to UGAs and 16% to Rural and Resource Lands (outside of UGAs).

III. Review of Permitted Densities

The GMA, at RCW 36.70A.070(5)(b) states:

. . . The rural element shall provide for a variety of rural densities, uses, essential public facilities, and rural governmental services needed to serve the permitted densities and uses. . .

Densities allowed under the current Zoning Code in Rural areas and Resource lands are shown in Table 1 and 2 below. "N/A" in the tables below means that there is not a specified density in the zoning district.

<i>Table 1. Permitted Densities in Rural Lands</i>		
Zoning Abbreviation	Zoning	Permitted Densities
RR1 RR2 RR3 RR2A RR5A	Residential Rural 1 dwelling/acre Residential Rural 2 dwellings/acre Residential Rural 3 dwellings/acre Residential Rural 1 dwelling/2 acres Residential Rural 1 dwelling/5 acres	Between 1 dwelling/acre and 1 dwelling/5 acres
EI	Eliza Island District	1 dwelling/5 acres
R2A R5A R10A	Rural 1 dwelling/2 acres Rural 1 dwelling/5 acres Rural 1 dwelling/10 acres	Between 1 dwelling/2 acres and 1 dwelling/10 acres
TZ	Point Roberts Transitional Zone	Between 1 dwelling/acre and 1 dwelling/5 acres
ROS	Recreation and Open Space	N/A
RGC	Rural General Commercial	N/A
NC	Neighborhood Commercial	N/A
STC	Small Town Commercial	Hotels and motels shall not exceed a floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.60. Duplexes may not exceed a maximum gross density of six dwelling units/acre.
TC	Tourist Commercial	Hotels and motels shall not exceed a floor area ratio (FAR) of .60.

Table 1. Permitted Densities in Rural Lands		
Zoning Abbreviation	Zoning	Permitted Densities
		Recreational vehicle parks shall not exceed a density of 15 units per acre. All other uses shall not exceed a floor area ratio (FAR) of .70.
RC	Resort Commercial	Maximum gross density: 7 to 22 dwelling units/acre, if public water and sewer are available Minimum net density: 7 to 10 dwelling units/acre (WCC 20.64.260), if public water and sewer are available Maximum gross density: 2 dwelling units/acre, if public water is available but not public sewer Maximum gross density: 1 dwelling unit/5 acres, if public water is not available
GM	General Manufacturing	N/A
RIM	Rural Industrial and Manufacturing	N/A

Table 2. Permitted Densities in Resource Lands		
Zoning Abbreviation	Zoning	Permitted Densities
AG	Agriculture	1 dwelling/40 acres
CF	Commercial Forestry	N/A
RF	Rural Forestry	1 dwelling/20 acres
MRL	Mineral Resource Lands Special District Overlay Zone	1 dwelling/20 acres or underlying zoning density, whichever allows less development

IV. Rural/Resource Lands Growth Allocation Proposal

This section compares population, housing and employment growth allocations in the 2025 County proposal to those in the non-binding multi-jurisdictional resolution approved by the County Council in March 2025 (Resolution 2025-011).

The proposed growth allocations for the Rural and Resource Lands over the planning period are an additional 9,000 people, an additional 4,416 housing units, an additional 3,403 jobs. These allocations are consistent with the multi-jurisdictional resolution approved by the County Council in March 2025.

Table 3. Population Growth Allocation Proposal (2023-2045)		
1	Multi-jurisdictional Resolution Growth Allocation	9,000
2	County Growth Allocation Proposal	9,000
3	Difference	0

The Technical Report middle population scenario is that population would increase in Rural and Resource Lands by 10,773 people over the planning period (2023-2045). The middle scenario, based upon the share of countywide growth the Rural and Resource Lands received from 2013 to 2023, would equate to an additional 490 people per year in the Rural and Resource Lands from 2023-2045. On an average yearly basis, this is comparable to growth experienced between the last two Censuses.

The proposal is to allocate population growth of 9,000 new residents in the Rural and Resource Lands over the planning period (2023-2045). This number has been reduced from the 10,000 population growth figure originally suggested by Planning and Development Services. This reduction was based upon consideration of a motion made by the County Council's Committee of the Whole on October 22, 2024 to reduce the 10,000 growth figure.

The 9,000 population growth projection for Rural and Resource Lands would equate to growth of about 409 people per year in these areas over the 22-year planning period and would continue the trend of lower growth experienced outside UGAs over the last three decades.

County Council Resolution 2025-011 (the Non-Binding Multi-jurisdictional Resolution) allocates approximately 87% of the projected population growth over the new 20-year planning period to UGAs and 13% to Rural and Resource Lands.

Table 4. Housing Growth Allocation Proposal (2023-2045)		
1	Multi-jurisdictional Resolution Growth Allocation	4,416
2	County Growth Allocation Proposal	4,416
3	Difference	0

In order to identify the number of housing units needed for each jurisdiction, the State Department of Commerce developed the Housing for All Planning Tool (HAPT) spreadsheets for use by local jurisdictions (the County's consultant modified the tool to address UGAs and limitations on Rural housing under GMA). The overall countywide population figure is inserted in the HAPT, and it calculates the number of housing units that are needed at the various income bands (low, moderate, high income households) in each UGA and the Rural and Resource Lands outside UGAs. The housing units needed in the Rural and Resource Lands, which were included in County Council Resolution 2025-011 (the Multi-jurisdictional Resolution), are shown above. The County's growth proposal is the same as Resolution 2025-011.

Table 5. Employment Growth Allocation Proposal (2023-2045)		
1	Multi-jurisdictional Resolution Growth Allocation	3,403
2	County Growth Allocation Proposal	3,403
3	Difference	0

The Technical Report middle employment growth scenario is based upon the share of employment that each area had in 2021. The Rural and Resource Lands (outside UGAs) had 30.1% of the county-wide population in 2023 and 14.0% of the county-wide jobs (2021).

Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 2 contains the following provisions under the heading of "Rural Employment Opportunities":

Goal 2FF: Provide employment opportunities in the rural parts of Whatcom County.

Policy 2FF-1: Support small businesses, cottage industries, home occupations, resource-based, tourist, recreational, and other appropriate industries in the rural areas of Whatcom County. New rural commercial and industrial uses that are more intensive than those permitted within rural zones as home occupations or cottage industries should be located within designated Rural Communities and Rural Business areas.

Policy 2FF-2: Support resource-based industries that require only rural services, conserve the natural resource land base, and help maintain the rural character and lifestyle of the community. Assure adequate facilities, mitigation and buffers through development regulations.

Policy 2FF-3: Ensure that business operations do not adversely impact adjacent residential, agricultural or forest land, or compromise water quality and quantity.

Policy 2FF-4: Allow home-based occupations, cottage industries and small-scale tourist and recreational uses throughout the rural area provided they do not adversely affect the surrounding residential uses, agricultural uses, forestry uses, or rural character.

Jobs in Rural and Resource Lands are associated with agriculture, forestry, mining, home based businesses, cottage industries, commercial or industrial uses in “limited areas of more intensive rural development” (LAMIRDs), public schools, etc. If the Technical Report middle growth allocation of 3,403 jobs was adopted as proposed, with the proposed population allocation, the Rural and Resource Lands would add about 1 job for every 2.6 new residents over the planning period. Recently, there is about 1 job for every 4.5 residents in Rural and Resource Lands. Additionally, such an allocation would be similar to the 3,201 jobs allocated to the Rural and Resource Lands in the current Comprehensive Plan.

V. Rural and Resource Lands Proposal

The Rural and Resource Lands proposal includes the following features:

Zoning Code Amendments: Amend the RR-2, RR-3, STC Zoning text to allow duplex, triplex, and fourplex development when public water is available. These changes are intended to help meet the allocation of moderate income housing to the Rural and Resource Lands under House Bill 1220, codified in RCW 36.70A.030(2).

Custer LAMIRD: Rezone approximately 90 acres from RR2 to RR3. This change is intended to help meet the allocation of moderate income housing to Rural and Resource Lands under House Bill 1220, codified in RCW 36.70A.030(2).

Pole & Guide LAMIRD: Rezone approximately 105 acres from RR2 to RR3. This change is intended to help meet the allocation of moderate income housing to the Rural and Resource Lands under House Bill 1220, codified in RCW 36.70A.030(2).

Hinote’s Corner: Rezone approximately 95 acres within the from RR2 to RR3. Also, rezone approximately 71 acres from R2A to RR2. These changes are intended to help meet the allocation of moderate income housing to the Rural and Resource Lands under House Bill 1220, codified in RCW 36.70A.030(2).

Lummi Island: Change the Comprehensive Plan designation from MRL to Rural Forestry, remove the MRL Special District overlay zone, and retain the underlying Rural Forestry zoning for approximately 25 acres. The Lummi

Island Heritage Trust purchased this land in 2015. The Trust's website indicates:

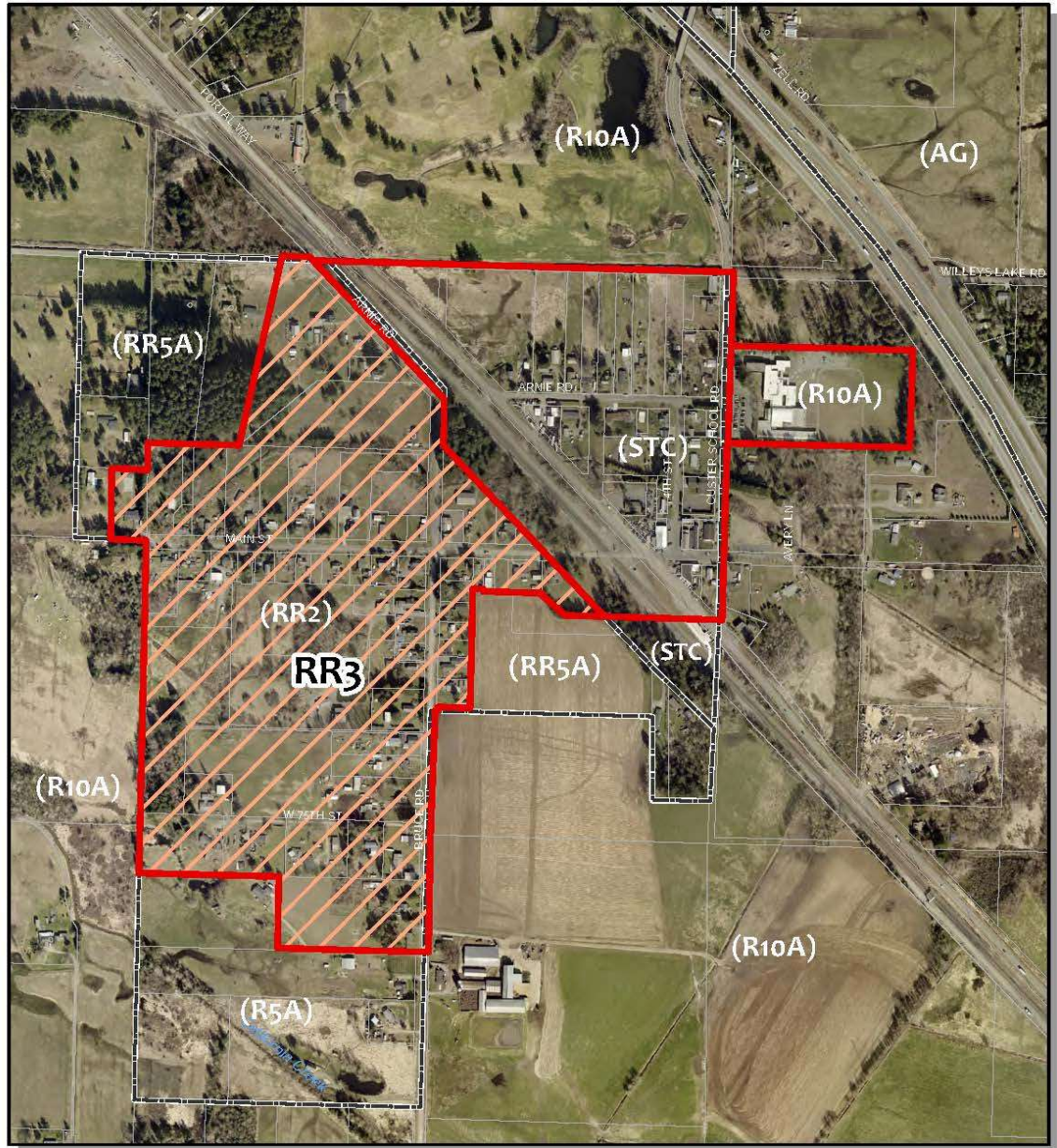
. . . Located on the southeast flank of Lummi Mountain, the Aiston Preserve is comprised of a 105-acre property the Heritage Trust purchased in 2015, and the 120-acre Reflection Woods property the Heritage Trust acquired in 2022. About 20 acres of the original 105 acres were affected by human use and mining. . . The Aiston Preserve also includes a former gravel quarry, which remains closed to the public. . .

This MRL is no longer intended to be used for mining and, therefore, is proposed for removal from the MRL designation.

Other LAMIRDS – Other LAMIRDS were eliminated from consideration for rezoning to higher densities to accommodate moderate income housing because of a variety of factors including location within a sensitive watershed, geo-hazards (such as alluvial fan hazard areas and landslide hazard areas), and remote location.

The County's proposed zoning map changes are shown below.

It's important to note that some of the UGA Proposals include expanding UGAs and/or UGA Reserves into Rural or Agricultural Resource Lands. These proposals would, if approved, affect the Rural and Agricultural land base.



Custer

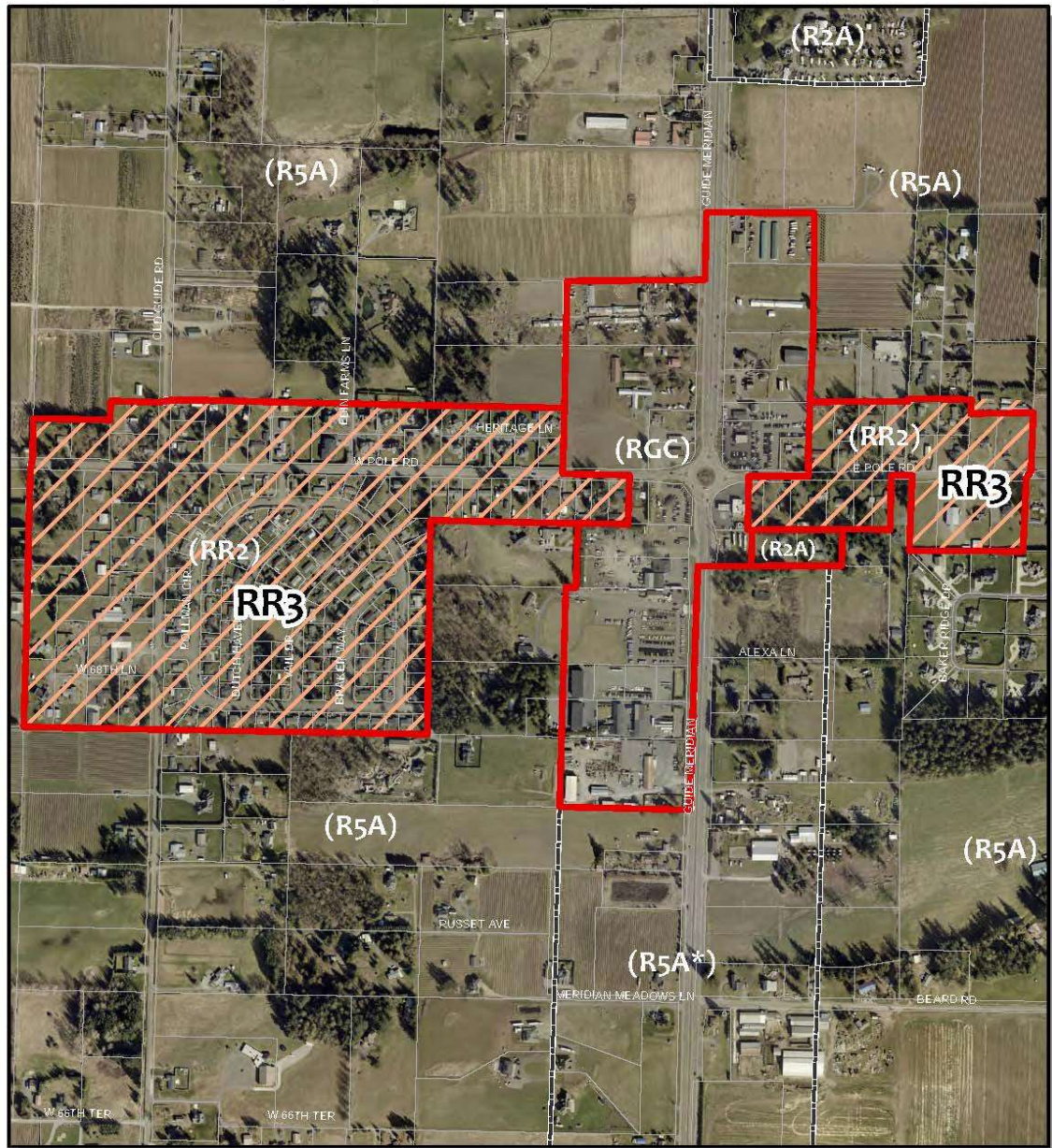
- Custer LAMIRD
- Proposed Rezone (new zoning designation in bold)
- Existing Zoning Designations (in parentheses)

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0 100 200 400 600 800
feet





Pole & Guide Meridian

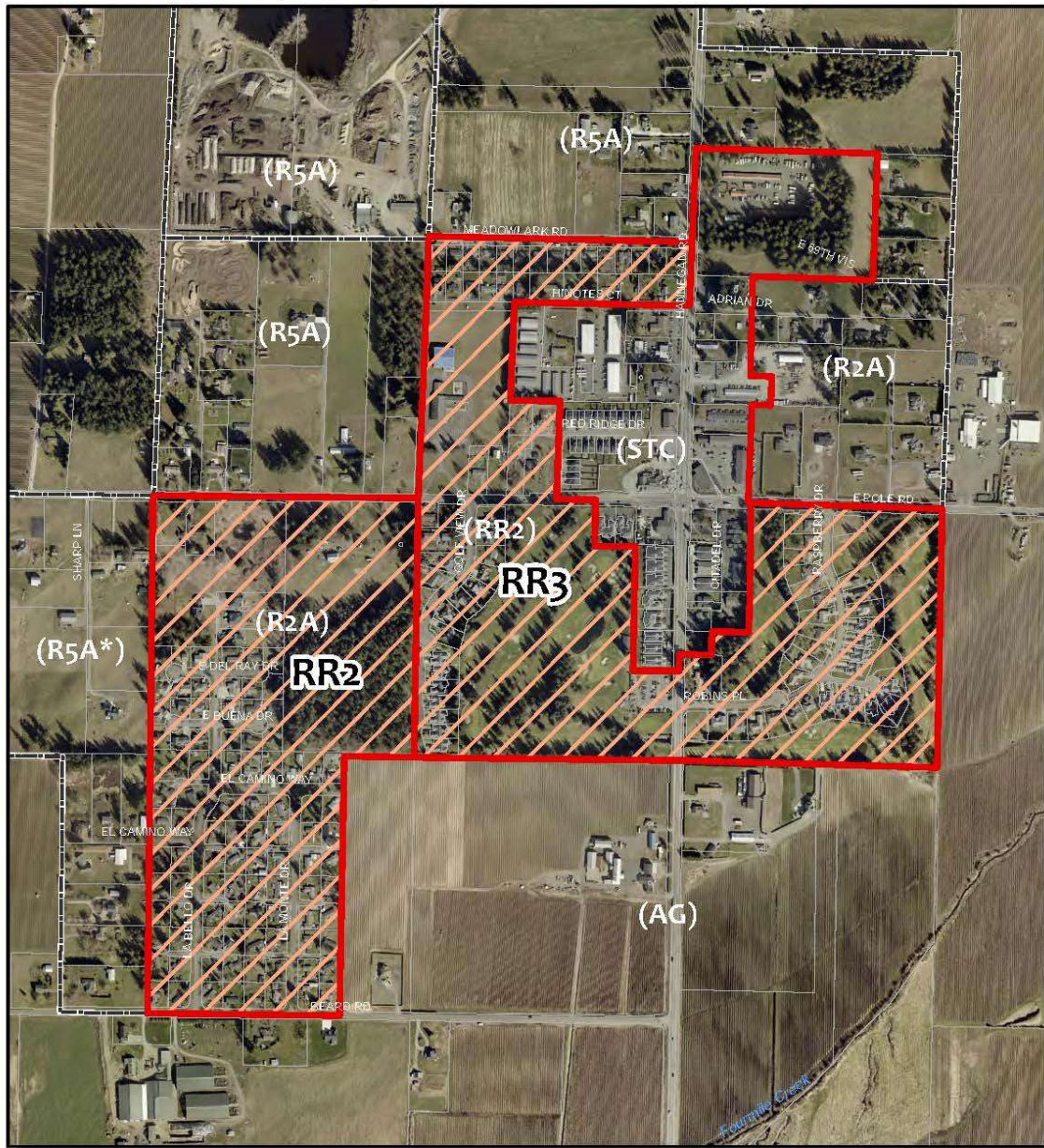
- Pole & Guide Meridian LAMIRD
- Proposed Rezone (new zoning designation in bold)
- Existing Zoning Designations (in parentheses)

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0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet





Hinotes Corner

- Hinotes Corner LAMIRD
- Proposed Rezone (new zoning designation in bold)
- Existing Zoning Designations (in parentheses)

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Lummi Island



Proposed Comprehensive Plan Change - MRL to Rural Forestry



Zoning - Remove MRL Special District Overlay Zone
(retain the underlying Rural Forestry Zone)

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0 62.5 125 250 375 500 Feet

VI. Land Capacity Analysis Overview

A land capacity analysis (LCA) compares the proposed growth allocations to the capacity of a UGA or other area to accommodate growth. The land capacity analysis is an important tool for sizing UGAs. However, a land capacity analysis is not required for Rural and Resource Lands. The State Department of Commerce's *Guidance for Updating Your Housing Element - Updating your housing element to address new requirements* (Aug. 2023), under a heading of "Analyzing land capacity in rural areas," states:

LCAs are designed to assess capacity for urban growth areas. However, changes to the GMA in 2021 allow for redevelopment and infill within local areas of more intense rural development (LAMIRDs) that have public facilities and services. Therefore, some counties may consider applying this LCA methodology to evaluate potential capacity for housing production in select LAMIRDs that can support new development (p. 20).

The County has chosen to evaluate land capacity for housing in Rural and Resource Lands because of the new requirements of House Bill 1220. Land capacity for LAMIRDs was analyzed in a manner similar to UGAs. A more generalized approach was used for analyzing land capacity for housing in other Rural and Resource Lands. Land capacity for population and employment were not evaluated.

Table 6. Rural and Resource Lands - Population Land Capacity Analysis		
1	Population Growth Capacity of Rural and Resource Lands	N/A
2	Population Growth Allocation Proposed	9,000
3	Surplus (Deficit)	N/A

The table above does not apply to Rural and Resource Lands. As mentioned, State Department of Commerce Guidance does not require a land capacity analysis for Rural areas. The land capacity for housing, shown below in Table 7, is sufficient. Therefore, it follows that land capacity to accommodate population will also be sufficient.

Table 7. Rural and Resource Lands – Housing Land Capacity Analysis

Income Band (AMI)	Aggregated Housing Needs (housing units)	Total Capacity	Surplus (Deficit)
0-80%	900	900	0
80-120%	611	690	79
120+%	2,905	4,699	1,794
Total	4,416	6,289	1,873

NOTE: AMI means "Area Median Income"

With the proposed zoning changes, the Rural and Resource Lands can accommodate a variety of housing types to meet the needs of various income level households under House Bill 1220. The land capacity is sufficient to accommodate the proposed housing growth allocation over the planning period.

Table 8. Rural and Resource Lands - Commercial/Industrial Land Capacity Analysis		
1	Employment Growth Capacity of Rural and Resource Lands	N/A
2	Employment Growth Allocation Proposed	3,403
3	Surplus (Deficit)	N/A

The table above does not apply to Rural and Resource Lands. As mentioned, State Department of Commerce Guidance does not require a land capacity analysis for Rural areas. Additionally, most zoning districts in Rural and Resource Lands allow employment generating land uses. These include commercial, industrial, home based businesses, agriculture, forestry, mining, and/or public and community facilities. Large areas of the County in Rural and Resource Lands could accommodate such uses. Therefore, it's not a matter of whether or not there is enough land to support jobs, but whether land owners will choose to use their land for employment generating activities.

VII. Capital Facility Planning

Rezoning to allow higher densities are proposed in three LAMIRDs: Custer, Pole & Guide and Hinote's Corner. A discussion of capital facilities for these three LAMIRDs follows.

Custer LAMIRD

Water – The Custer LAMIRD and surrounding Rural lands are served by the Custer Water Association. The draft Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP, August 2025) indicates the Custer Water Association has 76 connections available for future growth (p. 3-19). *Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Allocations for Special Districts by Growth Alternative* (June 2025) projects 123 new dwelling units in the Water Association service area over the planning period (2023-2045). The Water Association service area includes a rather large rural area around the Custer LAMIRD. Exempt wells are allowed in Rural areas if public water is not available.

Sewer – There is no public sewer in the Custer LAMIRD. On-site septic systems would be required. While the GMA allows sewer in Rural areas under specific circumstances, it also provides the following definition at RCW 36.70A.030(40):

"Rural governmental services" or "rural services" include those public services and public facilities historically and typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas, and may include domestic water systems and fire and police protection services 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).

Stormwater – Stormwater is typically addressed by the developer at the permitting stage under existing County Codes.

Fire Protection – North Whatcom Fire & Rescue provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Custer LAMIRD. The *North Whatcom Fire & Rescue and Fire District # 4 Capital Facilities Plan* was approved by the District Commissioners in 2016. This Plan states:

The Fire District intends to request mitigation fees pursuant to RCW 82.02.020 (voluntary agreements) and/or RCW 43.21C.060 (SEPA mitigation) from developers to partially finance planned capital facilities needed to serve new growth. However, these mechanisms would not capture the incremental impacts to Fire/EMS services that smaller developments might cause over time. For example, they would not apply to construction of a new single-family residence on an existing lot. Whatcom County and the City of Blaine currently do not have fire impact fee ordinances that would allow collection of impact fees for both larger and smaller developments

pursuant to RCW 82.02.050 -.100. The Fire Districts encourage the County and the City of Blaine to adopt fire impact fee ordinances. (p. 12).

Schools – The Ferndale School District serves the Custer LAMIRD. The District’s capital facilities plan is from 2013 and is due for an update.

Transportation – Portal Way bisects the Custer LAMIRD and there are other County roads that serve the LAMIRD. Road improvement projects over the 20-year planning period will, as appropriate, be set forth in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (Appendix E, 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan).

Pole & Guide LAMIRD

Water – The Pole & Guide LAMIRD and surrounding Rural lands are served by the Pole Road Water Association. The draft Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP, August 2025) indicates the Pole Road Water Association 384 connections available for future growth (p. 3-21). *Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Allocations for Special Districts by Growth Alternative* (June 2025) projects 165 new dwelling units in the Water Association over the planning period (2023-2045).

Sewer – There is no public sewer in the Pole & Guide LAMIRD. On-site septic systems would be required.

Stormwater – Stormwater is typically addressed by the developer at the permitting stage under existing County Codes.

Fire Protection – North Whatcom Fire & Rescue provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Pole & Guide LAMIRD. The *North Whatcom Fire & Rescue and Fire District # 4 Capital Facilities Plan* was approved by the District Commissioners in 2016. This Plan states:

The Fire District intends to request mitigation fees pursuant to RCW 82.02.020 (voluntary agreements) and/or RCW 43.21C.060 (SEPA mitigation) from developers to partially finance planned capital facilities needed to serve new growth. However, these mechanisms would not capture the incremental impacts to Fire/EMS services that smaller developments might cause over time. For example, they would not apply to construction of a new single-family residence on an existing lot. Whatcom County and the City of Blaine currently do not have fire impact fee ordinances that would allow collection of impact fees for both larger and smaller developments pursuant to RCW 82.02.050 -.100. The Fire Districts encourage the County and the City of Blaine to adopt fire impact fee ordinances. (p. 12).

Schools – The Meridian School District serves the Pole & Guide LAMIRD. The District’s capital facilities plan was updated in September 2025.

Transportation – As the LAMIRD name suggests, the main roads serving the LAMIRD are Pole Rd. and Guide Meridian. There are other County roads that also

serve the LAMIRD. Road improvement projects over the 20-year planning period will, as appropriate, be set forth in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (Appendix E, 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan).

Hinote's Corner LAMIRD

Water – The Hinote's Corner LAMIRD and surrounding Rural lands are served by the Pole Road Water Association (and several smaller water associations, which overlap the Pole Road Water Association).

The draft Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP, August 2025) indicates the Pole Road Water Association 384 connections available for future growth (p. 3-21). *Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Allocations for Special Districts by Growth Alternative* (June 2025) projects 165 new dwelling units in the Water Association over the planning period (2023-2045).

Sewer – There is no public sewer in the Hinote's Corner LAMIRD. On-site septic systems would be required.

Stormwater – Stormwater is typically addressed by the developer at the permitting stage under existing County Codes.

Fire Protection – North Whatcom Fire & Rescue provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Hinote's Corner LAMIRD. The *North Whatcom Fire & Rescue and Fire District # 4 Capital Facilities Plan* was approved by the District Commissioners in 2016. This Plan states:

The Fire District intends to request mitigation fees pursuant to RCW 82.02.020 (voluntary agreements) and/or RCW 43.21C.060 (SEPA mitigation) from developers to partially finance planned capital facilities needed to serve new growth. However, these mechanisms would not capture the incremental impacts to Fire/EMS services that smaller developments might cause over time. For example, they would not apply to construction of a new single-family residence on an existing lot. Whatcom County and the City of Blaine currently do not have fire impact fee ordinances that would allow collection of impact fees for both larger and smaller developments pursuant to RCW 82.02.050 -.100. The Fire Districts encourage the County and the City of Blaine to adopt fire impact fee ordinances. (p. 12).

Schools – The Lynden School District serves the portion of the Hinote's Corner LAMIRD located north of Pole Rd. The Meridian School District serves the portion of the Hinote's Corner LAMIRD located south of Pole Rd. The Lynden School District adopted a capital facilities plan in March 2025. The Meridian School District's capital facilities plan is from 2017 and is in the process of being updated.

Transportation – The main roads serving the Hinote's Corner LAMIRD are Pole Rd. and Hannegan Rd. There are other County roads that also serve the LAMIRD. Road improvement projects over the 20-year planning period will, as appropriate, be set

forth in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan (Appendix E, 20-Year Capital Facilities Plan).

VIII. Conclusions

In summary, Whatcom County Planning and Development Services recommends a population growth projection of 9,000, a housing growth projection of 4,416, and an employment growth projection of 3,403 jobs for the Rural and Resource Lands over the new planning period (2023-2045). These projections are consistent with the non-binding multi-jurisdictional resolution regarding preliminary population, housing and employment allocations (County Council Resolution 2025-011).

County proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning relating to Rural and Resource Lands are:

- Zoning Code Amendments: Amend the RR-2, RR-3, STC Zoning text to allow duplex, triplex, and fourplex development when public water is available.
- Custer LAMIRD: Rezone approximately 90 acres from RR2 to RR3.
- Pole & Guide LAMIRD: Rezone approximately 105 acres from RR2 to RR3.
- Hinote's Corner LAMIRD: Rezone approximately 95 acres from RR2 to RR3. Also, rezone approximately 71 acres from R2A to RR2.
- Lummi Island: Change Comprehensive Plan designation from MRL to Rural Forestry, remove the MRL Special District overlay zone, and retain the underlying Rural Forestry zoning for approximately 25 acres.

Some of the UGA Proposals submitted by the cities and the County include expanding UGAs and/or UGA Reserves into Rural or Agricultural Resource Lands. These proposals would, if approved, affect the Rural and Agricultural land base.

The Rural and Resource Lands proposal would provide land zoned to accommodate the projected housing growth over the planning period. It would also accommodate housing allocated to Rural and Resource lands for lower, moderate, and higher income levels.

The current Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan allocates approximately 84% of the projected population growth over the 20-year planning period to UGAs and 16% to Rural and Resource Lands (outside of UGAs). County Council Resolution 2025-011 (the Non-Binding Multi-jurisdictional Resolution), used in this Proposal, allocates approximately 87% of the projected population growth over the new 20-year planning period to UGAs and 13% to Rural and Resource Lands. This furthers the GMA goal of encouraging more development in UGAs.