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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:41 AM

**To:** Kaylee Galloway <KGallowa@co.whatcom.wa.us>

**Subject:** Population Projections for Comp Plan Use in what format works best.

The Population and Employment Projections produced by the Interjurisdictional Joint Task Force and incorporated into the Draft EIS should not be the basis for Comprehensive Plan revisions, particularly Chapter 2. These projections fail to address GMA Provisions to direct population growth to areas of job growth and they provide no true alternatives to consider.

The OFM Medium Growth Projections have been historically accurate to actual growth in Whatcom County. Rather than giving us alternative visions of how to distribute realistic future growth, the Joint Task Force projections provide us with essentially one vision for how to distribute three growth scenarios, two of which are unlikely.

Attached are a set of alternatives based on the middle growth projections and addressing the challenge of preserving rural areas and small towns. These were presented to Planning Commission but not adopted. Alternative 1 JH is the least aggressive, projecting the most rural and small-town growth. Alternative 2 JH is very balanced, matching population growth distribution to job growth figures derived from the Joint Task Force scenarios. Alternative 3 is the most aggressive, directing even more growth to the larger Urban Areas.

The projection I propose fall within the range of the EIS being proposed and will provide a far sounder model to provide a foundation for the Comp Plan update.

Jim Hansen

Whatcom Population- Job Growth Scenarios JH #1				
OFM-Technical Report Mid Scenario Population Growth Distributions				
With City County Employment Growth Projections				
	Tech Report Mid Projections		City-County Proposal	
Areas	Population GR.	Pop Gr. Share	Employment Gr.	Empl. Gr. Share
Bellingham-UGAs	24158	42.45%	19384	59.92%
Birch Bay UGA	2313	4.06%	450	1.39%
Blaine UGA	2774	4.87%	1092	3.38%
Cherry Point UGA	0	0.00%	1200	3.71%
Columbia Valley UGA	988	1.74%	350	1.08%
Everson UGA	933	1.64%	602	1.86%
Ferndale UGA	7262	12.76%	3337	10.32%
Lynden UGA	6665	11.71%	1799	5.56%
Nooksack UGA	352	0.62%	232	0.72%
Sumas UGA	697	1.22%	500	1.55%
Rural/Resource Lands	10773	18.93%	3403	10.52%
	56915	100.00%	32349	100.00%

Whatcom Population- Job Growth Scenarios JH #2				
OFM-Technical Report Population Growth Projection w Distrutions				
Adjusted to congruence with Tech Report Job Growth Estimates				
	Tech Report Mid Projections		City-County Proposal	
Areas	Population GR.	Pop Gr. Share	Employ. Gr.	Employ. Gr. Share
Bellingham-UGAs	34110	59.93%	19384	59.92%
Birch Bay UGA #	965	1.70%	450	1.39%
Blaine UGA #	2400	4.22%	1092	3.38%
Cherry Point UGA	0	0.00%	1200	3.71%
Columbia Valley UGA	615	1.08%	350	1.08%
Everson UGA	1060	1.86%	602	1.86%
Ferndale UGA #	7320	12.86%	3337	10.32%
Lynden UGA	3165	5.56%	1799	5.56%
Nooksack UGA	410	0.72%	232	0.72%
Sumas UGA	885	1.55%	500	1.55%
Rural/Resource Lands	5985	10.52%	3403	10.52%
	56915	100.00%	32349	100.00%
# UGAs taking Cherry Point Job Growth				

Whatcom Population- Job Growth Scenarios JH #3				
OFM-Technical Report Population Growth Projection w Distributions adjusted to congruence with <u>more conservative</u> Job Growth Distribution projections				
	Tech Report Mid Projections		City-County Proposal	
Areas	Population GR.	Pop Gr. Share	Employ. Gr.	Employ. Gr. Share
Bellingham-UGAs	36135	63.49%	20535	63.48%
Birch Bay UGA #	965	1.70%	450	1.39%
Blaine UGA #	2200	3.87%	1092	3.38%
Cherry Point UGA	0	0.00%	1200	3.71%
Columbia Valley UGA	615	1.08%	200	0.62%
Everson UGA	1150	2.02%	602	1.86%
Ferndale UGA #	7520	13.21%	3740	11.56%
Lynden UGA	3165	5.56%	1799	5.56%
Nooksack UGA	410	0.72%	232	0.72%
Sumas UGA	885	1.55%	300	0.93%
Rural/Resource Lands	3870	6.80%	2200	6.80%
	56915	100.00%	32350	100.00%
# UGAs taking Cherry Point Job Growth				