

Whitman County Comprehensive Plan Update

Virtual Public Meeting #2



June 16, 2021



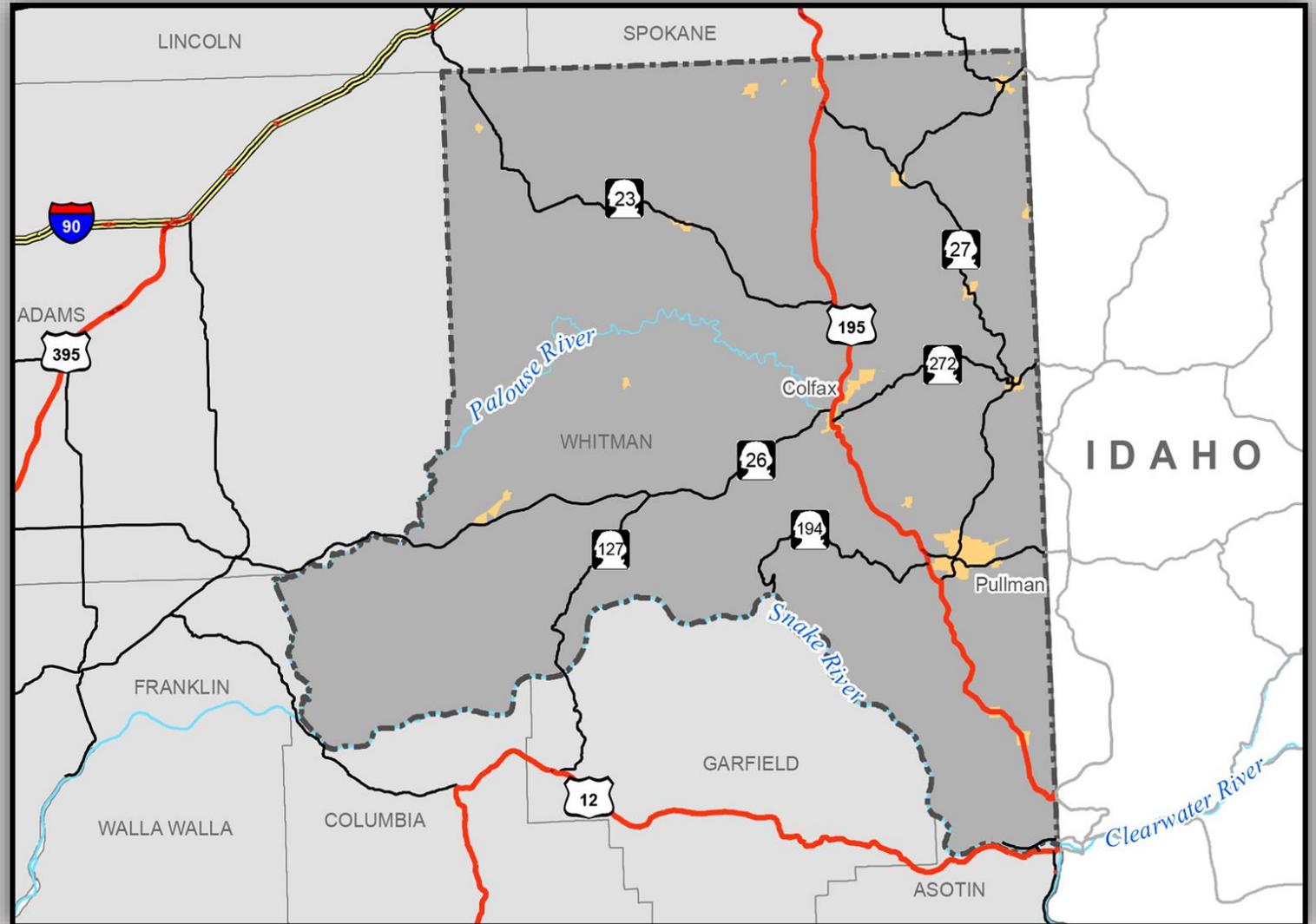
Welcome!

Introductions:

- Todd Hall, Planning Manager, LDC, Inc.
- Alan Thomson, County Planner
- Mark Storey, County Public Works Director

LDC

Surveying
Engineering
Planning



Why does Whitman County need a Comprehensive Plan?

- Washington State Growth Management Act (1990) (RCW 36.70A) – management of land and resources
- Whitman County is **NOT** a fully planning county under the GMA. Only **required** plan topics are **Critical Areas and Natural Resource Lands**.
- Critical Areas (Environmental Quality) = Wetlands, aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife conservation areas, climate change, etc.
- Natural Resource and Agricultural Conservation = forestry, agriculture, fisheries, and mining

- By choice, Whitman County is also planning for the following elements:
 - Land Use
 - Transportation
 - Economic Development
 - Public Services
 - Facilities & Utilities (including renewable energy)
 - Parks, Trails, & Recreation



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

What elements are included in the Comprehensive Plan?

Introduction



Land Use, Natural Resources & Agricultural Conservation

Transportation



Parks, Recreation & Trails



Economic Development



Environmental Protection & Climate Change

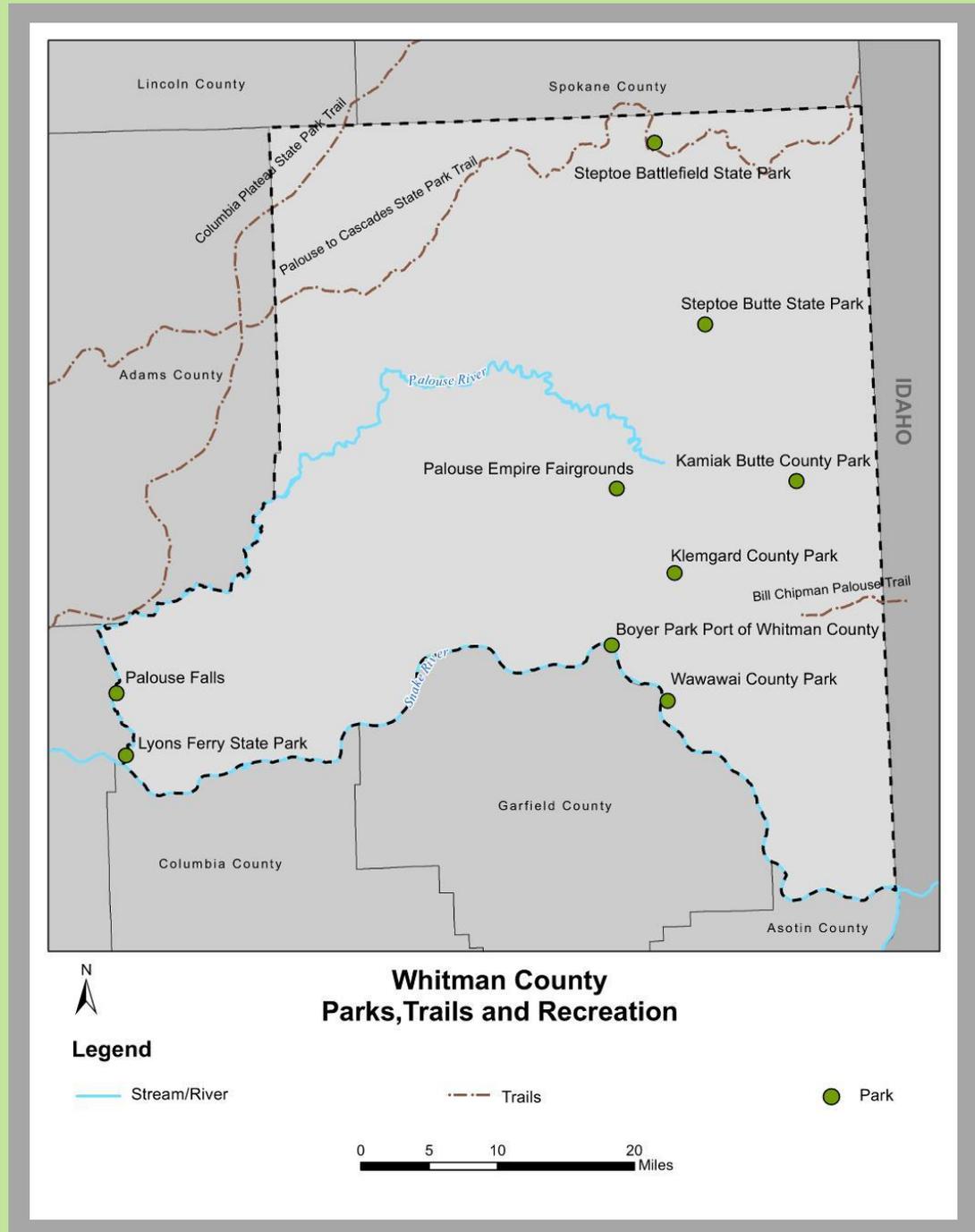
Public Services, Facilities and Utilities



Parks, Trails, and Recreation

Goals and policies supporting the creation and sustainability of parks and their resources

- Locate facilities and recreational opportunities to meet the needs of County residents and visitors
- Protect open spaces and wildlife areas
- Sustainably maintain and operate park system
- Identify new recreational and trail opportunities



Parks, Trails and Recreation

FRAMEWORK GOAL – PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

All policies and decisions made by the County, and as guided by the Comprehensive Plan, will strive to protect fundamental property rights of individuals and ensure that Whitman County land use policies and regulations balance the private property rights of all landowners to the degree possible.

FRAMEWORK GOAL – SUPPORT RECREATION AND ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS

Support county residents in their ability to access outdoor recreation and natural areas throughout Whitman County through collaboration and partnerships, while recognizing the need to protect natural, scenic and environmentally sensitive areas.

FRAMEWORK GOAL – PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF WHITMAN COUNTY

Recognize the value and importance of Whitman County's heritage, protecting important cultural and historical buildings and sites.



Whitman County



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Parks, Trails and Recreation

GOAL PR-1

PROVIDE PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES THAT MEET THE NEEDS OF WHITMAN COUNTY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

Policy PR-1.1 – Development of new parks and recreation facilities shall be consistent with the Land Use Element and the Whitman County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Policy PR-1.2 – Maintain and improve existing park, recreation and trail resources that provide recreational opportunities for a wide range of ages and interest groups.

Policy PR-1.3 – To ensure the current and long-term recreational needs of county residents, collaborate with other local and regional agencies, citizen groups and volunteers and private sector partners.

Policy PR-1.4 – Recognize the value that a well-maintained parks and recreation network provides in attracting economic development and tourism to Whitman County and the Palouse region.



Whitman County



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Parks, Trails and Recreation

GOAL PR-2

IDENTIFY, PRESERVE AND PROTECT OPEN SPACE RECREATION AND WILDLIFE AREAS IN WHITMAN COUNTY.

Policy PR-2.1 – Collaborate and support state, federal and other agencies who manage open space areas in Whitman County to ensure these areas are maintained and available to the public.

Policy PR-2.2 – Where feasible, identify additional opportunities for access to open spaces and wildlife corridors through lawful access of private property, while respecting private property rights and the continuation of agriculture, ranching and other agriculture activities.

Policy PR-2.3 – Ensure that access to open space and wildlife areas is consistent with the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, streams, steep slopes and other similar areas.



WTA.org

Parks, Trails and Recreation

GOAL PR-3

SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS OF THE COUNTY'S EXISTING TRAILS.

Policy PR-3.1 – Support ongoing maintenance of the County's existing trails located within County parks and along existing rail corridors.

Policy PR-3.2 – Work with state and other funding sources to help continue the development of the County's trail network.

Policy PR-3.3 – Where appropriate, collaborate with community services groups and volunteers to help with maintenance and upkeep of trails.



Parks, Trails and Recreation

GOAL PR-4

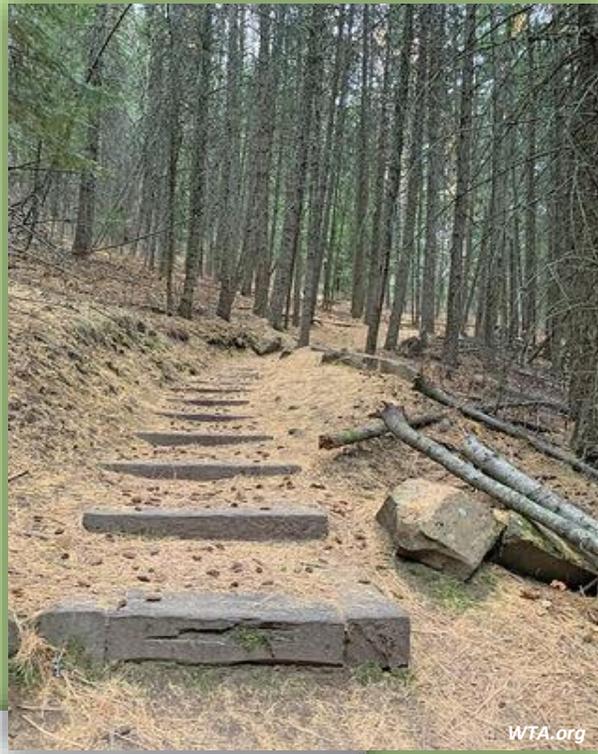
EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW TRAILS IN WHITMAN COUNTY.

Policy PR-4.1 – Explore potential options for new trail development and future trail expansion throughout Whitman County.

Policy PR-4.2 – Consider railbanking as a viable and legal option to develop multi-purpose trails on currently unused rail corridors.

Policy PR-4.3 – Pursue and encourage public involvement in trail planning through a variety of methods, including but not limited to, trail and open space advocacy groups, local city and county advisory groups, and other volunteer organizations.

Policy PR-4.4 – Seek and establish ongoing funding sources for the development of new multi-purpose and specific use trails (i.e., hiking and/or equestrian only).



Public Services, Facilities and Utilities

Goals and policies identifying and supporting the development and improvement of services, facilities and utilities

- Locate services, facilities and utilities to meet the needs of County today and in the future
- Consider siting of public facilities and their impacts on land use, especially agricultural lands



Public Services, Facilities And Utilities

FRAMEWORK GOAL – PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

All policies and decisions made by the County, and as guided by the Comprehensive Plan, will strive to protect fundamental property rights of individuals and ensure that Whitman County land use policies and regulations balance the private property rights of all landowners to the degree possible.

FRAMEWORK GOAL – ENHANCE COUNTYWIDE SERVICES

Through innovative approaches, interagency coordination, and responsible fiscal policy, provide for effective, supportive, and well-planned services to residents across the county.

FRAMEWORK GOAL – EFFECTIVE LAND USE PLANNING

Develop countywide goals and policies that promote effective and consistent land use decisions that are responsive to local growth but also protect the unique character of Whitman County.



WC Gazette



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Public Services, Facilities And Utilities

GOAL PF-1

SITE PUBLIC FACILITIES AND UTILITIES CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICES OF THE LAND USE ELEMENT.

Policy PF-1.1 – All major public facilities construction, whether by state/federal governmental agencies or public utilities, should serve needs which are consistent with the environmental, social, and economic characteristics of the region, small towns and family farms.



Whitman County Carother Road Solid Waste Facility

Public Services, Facilities And Utilities

GOAL PF-2

ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SERVICES, FACILITIES AND UTILITIES ARE ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT EXISTING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT WHITMAN COUNTY.

Policy PF-2.1 – Prior to approval of any land development, verify that adequate public facilities and utilities are available.

Policy PF-2.2 – Collaborate with City of Pullman to promote the extension of urban infrastructure and services to commercial and industrial lands within the Pullman Urban Growth Area.

Policy PF-2.3 – Whitman County should promote effective and ongoing collaboration and communicate between incorporated towns and other agencies to improve public services, facilities and utility services.

Policy PF-2.4 – Coordinate long-range planning efforts with both public and private service providers to ensure sufficient infrastructure capacity for future needs.



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Public Services, Facilities And Utilities

GOAL PF-3

CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR FACILITIES INITIATED BY STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE IRREVERSIBLE USE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AND TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS ON FARM AND RANCH OPERATIONS.

Policy PF-3.1 – Monitor plans and proposals of state and federal agencies for potential impacts to property.

Policy PF-3.2 – Utilize A-95 project funding review process to ensure that County policies are considered in the funding of state and federal projects and programs.

Policy PF-3.3 – Consider a permitting process for the siting of essential public facilities within Whitman County.



Whitman County Gazette

Public Services, Facilities And Utilities



Policy PF-3.4 – Discourage the siting of public facilities that do not require public services or utilities in agricultural areas of the County.

Policy PF-3.5 – Development proposals for cellular towers or other telecommunications facilities shall not be allowed if they pose unmitigated hazards for the safe operations and use of airport facilities within the county.

Public Services, Facilities And Utilities

GOAL PF-4

SMALLER LOCAL PUBLIC FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED TO SERVE LOCAL ENERGY NEEDS SHOULD BE LOCATED SO AS TO MINIMIZE IMPACTS ON ADJACENT LAND USES, INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL AND RESIDENTIAL LAND USE.

Policy PF-4.1 – Design of public facilities near residential land use should incorporate measures to minimize visual, noise, light and traffic impacts.

Policy PF-4.2 – Facilities proposed next to agricultural croplands should incorporate measures to minimize impacts on farm access and practices.

Policy PF-4.3 – Site proposed for facilities should represent the best feasible location to minimize impacts on other land use, given constraints of land availability and costs.



Public Services, Facilities And Utilities

GOAL PF-5

ENCOURAGE THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS OF THE EXISTING AND FUTURE TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM(S) TO A LEVEL ADEQUATE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY, INCLUDING VOICE, VIDEO AND DATA, AND OTHER PRESENT AND FUTURE TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

Policy PF-5.1 – Priority in planning decisions for improvements to telecommunication systems should be consistent with local plans and regulations, industry systems and standards, and State and Federal regulations, including but not limited to:

- FCC and WUTC regulations;
- Consumer services, residential, governmental, or businesses;
- Zoning Ordinance requirements for private and public lands; and
- Surrounding area and region's demand

Policy PF-5.2 – Establish a service level standard adequate to meet the needs of Whitman County.

Public Services, Facilities And Utilities



Policy PF-5.3 – Establish a classification and inventory system to make records available for all services provided.

Policy PF-5.4 – Review all development proposals in the unincorporated area for potential impacts.

- The cost of correcting existing and potential significant negative impacts shall be borne by the applicant and/or owner.
- Construction standards may be imposed through Accommodation of Utilities on County Road Right-of Way and Lands for Whitman County, the Whitman County Zoning Ordinance, and other regulatory authority of local, state and federal agencies.

Policy PF-5.5 – Develop and institute access control standards and requirements for all Whitman County telecommunications needs.

- Allow for future expansion and shared use of facilities.
- Require that design and construction does not preempt competitors' use.
- Assure prompt response to rapidly changing industry and conditions.

Public Services, Facilities And Utilities



Policy PF-5.6 – The County shall lease, franchise, or otherwise manage County lands and Right-of- Way according to policies within the Accommodation of Utilities on County Road Right-of Way and Lands for Whitman County.

Policy PF-5.7 – The County shall incorporate provisions to increase local access through franchises and/or lease agreements.

Policy PF-5.8 – Work with the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission to promote reasonable toll-free calling within Whitman County to reach community services.



Thank you!

Next Virtual
Public Meeting:
June 30

