

#1881

Strategies For  
RESOURCE LANDS DESIGNATIONS  
and  
INTERIM DEVELOPMENT  
REGULATIONS

On April 20, 1992 this document was adopted by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners to fulfill the requirements of the 1990 Growth Management Act to classify and designate natural resource lands and implement interim development regulations.

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8) Minimum Guidelines to Classify Agricultural, Forest and Mineral Resource Lands (Chapter 365-190 WAC)	
9) Environmentally Sensitive Areas, WAC 197-11-908	

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CLALLAM COUNTY                      JEFFERSON COUNTY  
MASON COUNTY                      PACIFIC COUNTY  
PIERCE COUNTY                      SNOHOMISH COUNTY

### KITSAP COUNTY RURAL POLICY ROUNDTABLE

#### PARTICIPATING STAFF

Kitsap Regional Planning Council

Mark D. Kulaas, Director  
Pamela L. Harbuck, Admin. Assistant

City of Bremerton

Donald L. Pratt, Director of  
Development

City of Port Orchard

Brad Davis, Director of Planning

City of Winslow

Stephanie Warren, Director of Land Use

Kitsap Co. Dept. of Comm. Development

Ron Perkerewicz, Director  
Clyde Stricklin, Division Head Planning  
Elizabeth Warren, Project Planner  
(Forest and Mineral Resource Lands)  
Jeff Smith, Project Planner (Agricultural Community  
Resource Lands)  
John P. Vodopich, Project Planner (Rural Policy  
Roundtable)

City of Poulsbo

Laurence Stockton, Director of Planning

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe

Jay Watson, Planning Director

Suquamish Tribe

Marsha Reid, Community Development Specialist

## FORWARD

The Washington State Legislature passed the Growth Management Act (ESHB 2929) in 1990. Any county and the cities located within such county, with a population of fifty thousand or more and a population increase by more than ten percent in the previous ten years, or a population increase of twenty percent in the previous ten years regardless of population, are required to comply with the Act. With an estimated growth rate of 25.62 percent, Kitsap County and the cities therein are now mandated to plan under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.040)

The Growth Management Act of 1990 requires cities and counties to classify, designate and develop regulations to protect resource lands. Resource lands include the following:

- A) Mineral lands;
- B) Agricultural lands; and
- C) Forest lands.

Classification and designation of resource lands is intended to assure the long-term protection of these areas and preclude land uses or development that is not compatible with resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170. It is the goal of the Growth Management Act to "maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries" and "encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses" (36.70A.020(8) RCW). The Act directed the Washington State Department of Community Development (WSDCD) to prepare guidelines for designation and regulatory action.

The process for classifying and designating resource lands is outlined in WAC 365-190 Minimum Guidelines to Classify Agriculture, Forest, Mineral Lands and Critical Areas (Appendix B). These guidelines provide considerable latitude to local government in determining the value of resource lands and the degree to which these lands will be designated and adopting associated development regulations.

The minimum guidelines lay out a three step process for designating resource lands. The first step: classification of the resource lands is a process of rating the value of the land for timber or agricultural production or mineral extraction. Classification means defining categories to which the resource lands will be assigned. The second step is designation which formally establishes the classification scheme, location of the resource lands and results in the adoption of resource lands protection policies. Designation means applying the classification scheme to the resource (i.e., assigning the classification for each resource type) and identifying the general distribution, location and extent of the resource lands (i.e., conduction of an inventory). The third step of the process is adoption of interim development regulations for protecting resource lands.

Kitsap County added a fourth step which was to establish a consensus group. This group was formed because increased development activity in the rural areas of Kitsap County and the mandates of the Growth Management Act combined to create a wide range of ideas,