

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

A ROAD MAP TO WASHINGTON'S FUTURE

Final Report

June 30, 2019

VOLUME 2

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THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The William D. Ruckelshaus Center is a neutral resource for collaborative problem solving in the State of Washington and the Pacific Northwest, dedicated to assisting public, private, tribal, non-profit, and other community leaders in their efforts to build consensus and resolve conflicts around difficult public policy issues. It is a joint effort of Washington State University, hosted and administered by WSU Extension and the University of Washington, hosted by the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.

For more information, visit www.ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu

A Road Map To Washington's Future

In 2017, the Washington State Legislature allocated funds to the William D. Ruckelshaus Center for a two-year project to create a "Road Map to Washington's Future." The purpose of the project was to articulate a vision of Washington's desired future and identify additions, revisions, or clarifications to the state's growth management and planning framework needed to reach that future.

To understand how the framework aligns with, creates barriers to, and/or supports the desired future of the communities it is meant to serve, the Ruckelshaus Center's Road Map Project Team traveled across the state, gathering information and hearing from ~2,500 individuals, which included nearly 400 elected officials.

The Project Team endeavored to design a process that would enable hearing directly from participants across the state, to understand the differences and similarities between the diverse regions of the state, and to hear from many different perspectives. Given the complexity of the planning framework, it was important to promote inclusive engagement with representatives of a wide range of federal, tribal, state, county, and city governments, private and non-profit entities, advocacy organizations, associations, elected officials, underrepresented populations, and other interested parties.

The collection of information throughout the State occurred through individual and group interviews, multi-sector workshops, elected official workshops, regional/statewide groups workshops, government agency workshops, Latinx workshops, an electronic questionnaire, university student and faculty research, and review of previous related studies and engagement activities. Each of these project components are described below in greater detail.

The Project Team developed a set of protocols for each of these components of the project, based on university human subject research principles and best practices in the field of collaborative governance. The WSU Office of Research Assurances reviewed the study and protocols and determined that the study satisfied the criteria for Exempt Research under 45 CFR 46.101(b)(2) and could be conducted without further review by the WSU Institutional Review Board.

The Project Team acknowledges there were limitations to the amount and nature of the outreach it was able to do given that the project was statewide, the entire team constituted 3.2 FTE, and the workshop design needed to be consistent, as per university protocols. The Project Team was aware that this effort

could not replace grassroots organizing and community engagement efforts that exist at the local level. Nor was there any guarantee that an individual or entity representing a key interest would be able or willing to participate.

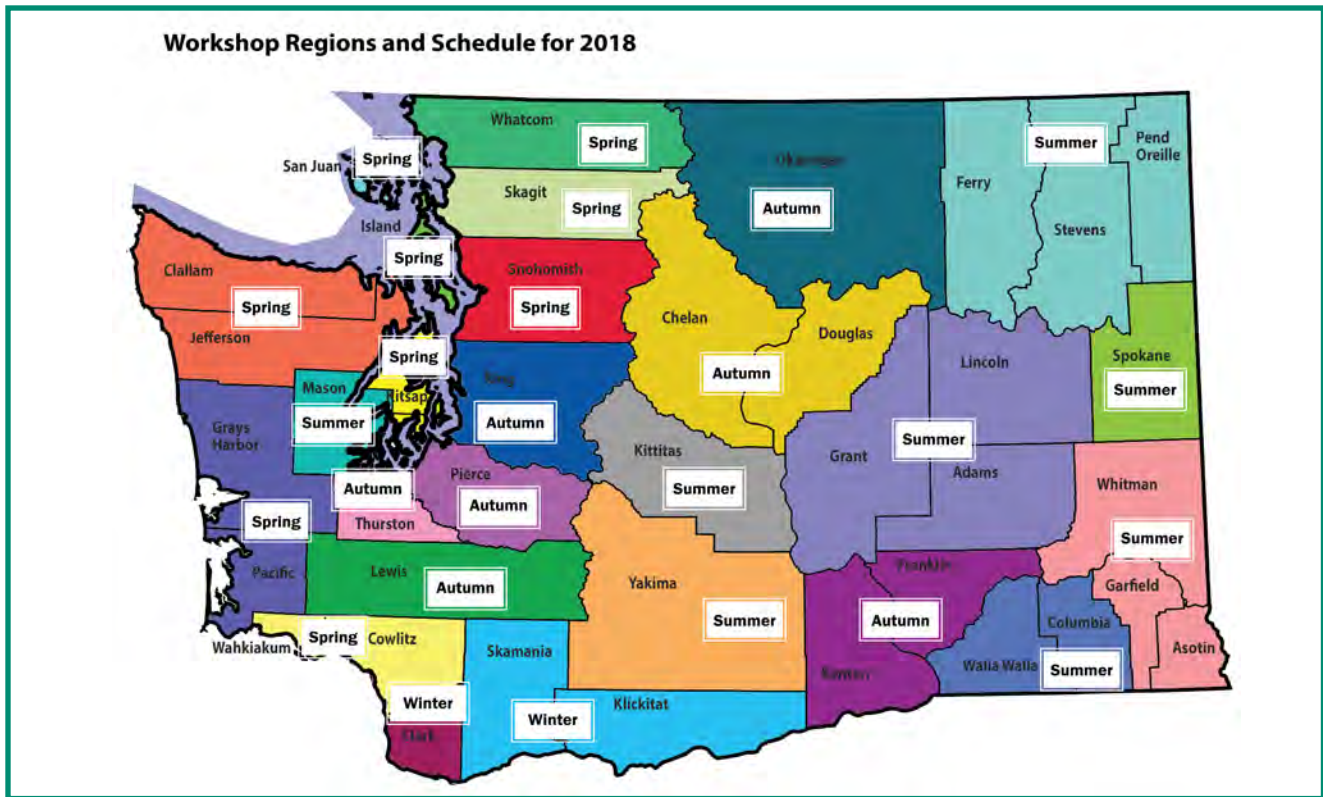
The Project Team invited every federal, tribal, state, and local elected official in the Washington State to workshops and attempted to identify and invite as many individuals as possible to multi-sector workshops who were involved in their own community's growth planning and visioning efforts. The Project Team also created an online questionnaire consisting of the same questions asked in the workshops. This questionnaire was sent to the 10,394 individuals that were identified throughout the project asking that they send it on to others in their communities. In addition, the Project Team conducted workshops for state agencies and state-wide associations and groups and conducted individual interviews. The Project Team also reviewed examples of community visioning initiatives that were provided by participants.

A list of names of individuals who participated in multi-sector workshops, elected official workshops, regional/statewide groups workshops, government agency workshops, and interviews is provided in in Volume 1. Appendix A. Per University protocols, participants were provided the opportunity to voluntarily opt out of having their name published in the Appendix. Some participants chose to opt out.

The Project Team also recognizes that to deepen understanding of the desired future and the growth planning framework there is more work needed to more extensively engage underrepresented populations.

WORKSHOP SUMMARIES:

Multi-Sector and Elected Officials



From March 2018 through January 2019, the Project Team conducted 28 multi-sector workshops, covering all counties across the State (some counties that typically plan together were combined into one workshop). The purpose of each workshop was to understand what participants representing multiple sectors desire for the future of that region and the state, and how the growth planning framework aligns with, creates barriers to, and/or supports the desired future of the communities it is meant to serve. A total of 828 participants attended a multi-sector workshop.

Each workshop was four hours in length, and engaged participants in individual reflection, as well as small group and full group discussions on a set of established questions. Participants were encouraged to comment on what was most relevant to them and their communities. Each participant was given the questions on a worksheet and asked to write individual reflections, in addition to verbal discussion. These worksheets were collected at the end of the workshops. A note taker was present at each workshop, to take notes during full group discussions.

The Project Team used a number of methods to identify participants, in order to get a wide range of sectors and interests at each workshop. This included developing a template identifying a range of sectors and interests that could be represented at the workshops, and then doing extensive outreach within each workshop region to ask for assistance in identifying individuals and other interests. In addition, the Project Team used membership lists from various councils, committees,

and online sources, website research, referrals from other invitees, Project Team member discussions, and Washington State University Extension faculty and staff working in each county.

On average, 200 participants were invited to each workshop, and on average, 40 people attended. Workshop participants were invited to participate, and asked to accept or decline, via email. Included in the email invitation was the list of workshop questions and a brief description of the project, including purpose, time commitment, and how information gathered at workshops was to be used (Volume 1. Appendix C.).

In addition to the 28 multi-sector workshops, the Project Team conducted 26 workshops across the state for elected officials, to understand how the framework aligns with, creates barriers to, and/or supports the desired future in their communities. All federal, tribal, state, county, city, and special district elected officials in each county, and who had an interest or rights in the region, were invited to attend.

A total of 294 elected officials attended these workshops. Each workshop was two and a half hours in length and engaged participants in reflection and discussion on a set of established questions. Participants were asked to comment on what was most relevant to them and the communities they represent. The Project Team facilitated full group discussions to respond to the workshop questions, and participants were asked to write individual answers on worksheets. A note taker was present at each workshop to take notes during full group discussion.

All elected officials were invited to participate, and asked to accept or decline, via email. Included in the email invitation was the list of workshop questions and a brief description of the project, including purpose, time commitment, and how information gathered at workshops was to be used (Volume 1. Appendix D.).

Provided on the following pages is summary of both the multi-sector and the elected workshops for the 26 county workshop locations.

SNOHOMISH WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP SUMMARY

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

Microsoft – kicking off the tech industry in Seattle

Alaska gold rush, port of Seattle jumping off point

100+ yrs. Railroads, ports, Seattle

50-75 yrs. Highway 99, I-5, state ferries, Boeing

25 or less yrs. Light rail, technology firms

1. Passage of GMA
2. Boeing HQ to Chicago
3. Construction of I-5
4. Boldt decision

- 530 slide
- I-5/ 405 development
- Tech phases
Microsoft
Amazon
- Aerospace
- GMA

March 22, 2014 OSO landslide

- Locating Boeing in Snohomish county
- GMA passage
- Evolution of Native American roles and effectiveness
- SMA
- Interstate highways

- Interurban railroad
- Highway 99
- I-5 & I-405
- Sound Transit light rail
- Alderwood mall
- Boeing plant
- Suburbanization
- Current urbanization
- Payne Field passenger service

Each shaped the region and growth of Snohomish county

Interstate highway system: 1952 on affects Transportation

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Indigenous populations
- Agriculture
- Naval station Everett
- Interstate 5
- SR 530 slide
- Boeing
- Population growth
- Decline of forests products industry

City of Woodway
Point Well's

Outcome- competing government interests

Impact on surrounding communities

Boeing international trade exports

Boeing plant/ securing 777

Development:

- Lynnwood convention center
- Future of Flight
- Angel of the Winds arena
- Naval station Everett

Growth and then decline of the timber industry

Ports (Edmonds/Everett) access/jobs/recreation

Development of the railroad into Everett

- Growth
- Sprawl
- Economic profit
- Infrastructure decline
- Recession
- Traffic
- Baby Boomers (Nation?)

First farmland preservation project completed

2017-2018

Employment growth in tech industry

Impact on housing and transportation

<p>10 yrs. (2008)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural mountain Snohomish county Continued economic decline, decreasing enrollment, increased poverty, development of rural lands with people not connected to community 	<p>3/22/14 Oso landslide</p> <hr/> <p>Key events defining Everett, Snohomish County, Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forefathers vision of Everett as "Pittsburgh of the West" Industrial city of smokestacks Boeing decision to build assembly plant in Everett Construction of I-5 through Everett Suburbanization of Snohomish county Formation of Snohomish County Tomorrow - in 1989: collaborative planning of local governments GMA requirement to curb sprawl, establishment of UGA's Microsoft and Amazon impacts on Puget Sound economy Great recession impact on region/county/city Opioid epidemic/ homelessness crisis Initiatives limiting local government ability to raise revenues needed to fund government services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispirit school opportunity Competing resource interests Flawed transportation planning Chansins development rules, defining critical areas <hr/> <p>Transcontinental railroad to region</p> <p>Shipping hub for Alaska and far east</p> <hr/> <p>Key changes in development patterns that occurred throughout Snohomish county in the late 1980's to early 1990's. Urban sprawl. Loss of farmlands and wetlands.</p> <p>The impact of Boeing in Snohomish county, Ecodevo, jobs, etc..</p> <p>Impact of Microsoft, Amazon, and other large employers</p> <p>Land use/ Environmental Laws</p> <hr/> <p>Good: protection of ag, forest, mineral lands, critical areas</p> <p>Bad: policy disconnect with market realities in term of growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One size fits all We seem to react to problems like traffic instead of proactively solving them <hr/> <p>Amazon, Starbucks, Microsoft</p> <p>- "EW" to old growth logging, transition from primarily an extractive economy</p> <hr/> <p>Recent economic recession (housing)</p>
<p>25 yrs. (1993)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collapse of timber industry No jobs replacing displaced local workers 		
<p>50 yrs. (1968)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boom of timber Investment in schools, community 		
<p>100 yrs. (1918)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement of rural mountain area Many farms, timber, jobs Displacement of Native populations 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSO landslide and recovery World's fair Puget Sound Regional Council Seattle fire Sound Transit Mt. St Helens eruption WWII/ Boeing/ Internment 	<p>1. Technology - Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, etc.</p> <p>2. Growth/sprawl</p> <p>3. Rise and decline of ag.</p> <p>4. Boldt decision / salmon recovery</p> <p>5. Changes in climate, nature, and open space</p>	
<p>Housing growth / pressure</p>		
<p>GMA- impact prevents urban sprawl</p>		

- Passage of the SMA in 1972
- GMA
- Listing of local salmon on ESA
- Introduction of critical areas regulations
- Key changes to these land use policies and regulations that occur on 8 yr. cycles

- GMA adoption
- Political changes at local and state level
- Great recession and effect on housing and employment
- Agriculture impact on county economy
- Transportation funding has affected maintenance and expansion (both roads and transit)

Paved the way for future projects
-Food security and open space

- Unknown outcomes
- Excessive transportation, grid lock
- Horse behind the cart planning
- Overcrowding
- Inconsistent application of the law

This is a desirable place to live but is limited by water, mountains, and regulation. Small area where lots of people want to be. This is driving home prices up plus the middle class further away from job centers.

- Transportation facilities help shaped when and how development grew
- Key businesses (Boeing, Microsoft, etc.) attracted skilled people
- Road system is congested; robust transit was not developed early on
- Because this is desirable region, affordable housing supply can't keep up

Contributed to economic growth / jobs

Contributed to development of new industries in the county/ economic diversity

Contributed to higher quality of recreational options/ way of life

Boeing has been a primary economic development driver in Snohomish county

GMA has been the system that shaped land use regulations. Physical growth, and intergovernmental relations.

Growth on tribal lands, increased retail and more effective roles in county, region, and state means tribes are major stakeholder in shaping region

- More needs than resources
- Opportunity for (planning?)
- Lack of focus
- Lack of community
- Quality of life decline

Rural Mountain Snohomish County:

- Higher poverty
- Decreased opportunity in: schools, work, careers
- Less community involvement by new members
- Little support for small rural areas near urban centers
- Few resources to move forward

Tech/ aerospace booms = people, traffic, cost of living, change in job markets

530 Landslide = increased hazard awareness but limited development codes, RE: Hazards

Combined= more people in higher risk zones

- Shape urban growth & planning
- Demonstrate community resilience
- "Place" region on national map/view
- Define economic sectors / growth
- Set up immigration issues (I.D. in Seattle)

We always seem to be playing catch-up with growth and development

Brought a community together- Oso Strong

1. Growth in business and people impact (positive and negative) on our natural resource management.

2. Growth/ sprawl/ density has created competition for available land

3. Agriculture impacts = food security? = people are less tied to the land

4. Difficult to balance growth, salmon recovery, agriculture availability

These events shaped how people live, work and travel with Snohomish county and Everett.

These events have manifested themselves with the form, size, character, quality, or our community, and the costs for local government to provide services to meet community needs.

Forced communities to rethink planning in certain geographical areas

1. Passage of GMA: Strong planning requirements to current land use patterns

2. Boeing HQ to Chicago: No longer a local company; more adversarial relationship with labor; increased uncertainty in Snohomish county economic future

3. Construction of I-5: Economic driver for Snohomish region; driver of density and job relocation

4. Boldt decision: Cemented salmon as an important part of Puget Sound region, and the importance of protecting nature/ resources

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

At the workshop, participants shared what impacts their quality of life and what they need to thrive. Some people felt that preserving open space and access to recreation was an important value. Others believe that economic opportunity, access to transportation, access to quality education, affordable housing, and cultural activities are important influences on quality of life. Some shared concerns that public health, safety, and human services were falling as a burden to cities and the county.

To thrive, people at the workshop shared the need for a more involved public and a community vision was important. Some stressed the need for affordable home ownership, more diversity, and tools to combat homelessness. A few participants also talked about the need for more measures to combat the opioid crisis. Others talked about needing public transportation to reduce the number of cars on the road. Others shared that the local city and county governments needed to communicate better with constituents so that the public wants to be involved. Participants stressed that the county needed the financial means to maintain infrastructure and provide for growth along with improved the education system to limit high school dropouts.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

When describing their desired future, people spoke about the need for tax reform and home ownership, though not just for single families. Some brought up the importance of the urban/rural distinction, and the desire to retain the rural vibe while still accommodating more people. Others stressed the importance of diverse job and housing opportunities alongside the changes and differences between the boomer generation and the millennials. The values of fairness, equity, and a sense of place were important, along with the general resistance to change. The idea of a bottom up approach had both benefits and consequences in the minds of the participants. To achieve their desired future, some people thought that having a proactive rather reactive government was key along with some courageous political leadership. Others spoke on the importance of having the resources and funding to implement policy decisions and engage the public in new ways. Some participants said that we must overcome the “not in my backyard” mentality to reach the desired future.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants described the purpose of the growth planning frame is to eliminate sprawl, to create “truth in planning” by identifying capital sources for projects, to protect environmentally critical areas supported by a sense of stewardship in the community, and to have sustainable development as well as consistency between plans in a region. People identified value in planning for regional transportation and encouraging economic stewardship to focus scarce public funding on the maximum benefit.

- *What parts of the growth planning framework do you believe work well in your community/county/region to achieve the desired future and why?*

Part of the growth planning framework that some believe was working well included the Urban Growth Area tool, and an improved connection between public land use plans and capital facilities planning. Others pointed to the usefulness of impact fees and flexible plans. People shared that the general level of public education and understanding about the planning framework has improved over the past two decades.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Some said that the growth planning framework is complicated and difficult to understand, additionally, some expressed concerns regarding the practicality of the growth planning framework. People shared that the lack of a regional framework and lack of consistency between jurisdictions and government agencies was not working well. Some participants expressed frustration that the framework seems to go against the interests of rural communities, while other attendees discussed the growth planning framework's limitations on agriculture and timber industries. Some pointed to funding lags for transportation and utilities, making the region less attractive to newcomers as another aspect of what is not working. Others brought up the difficulty with annexation and lack of resources to comply with comprehensive planning. Issues with the tax structure, lack of data, and lack of local government accountability were all raised as issues with the growth planning framework.

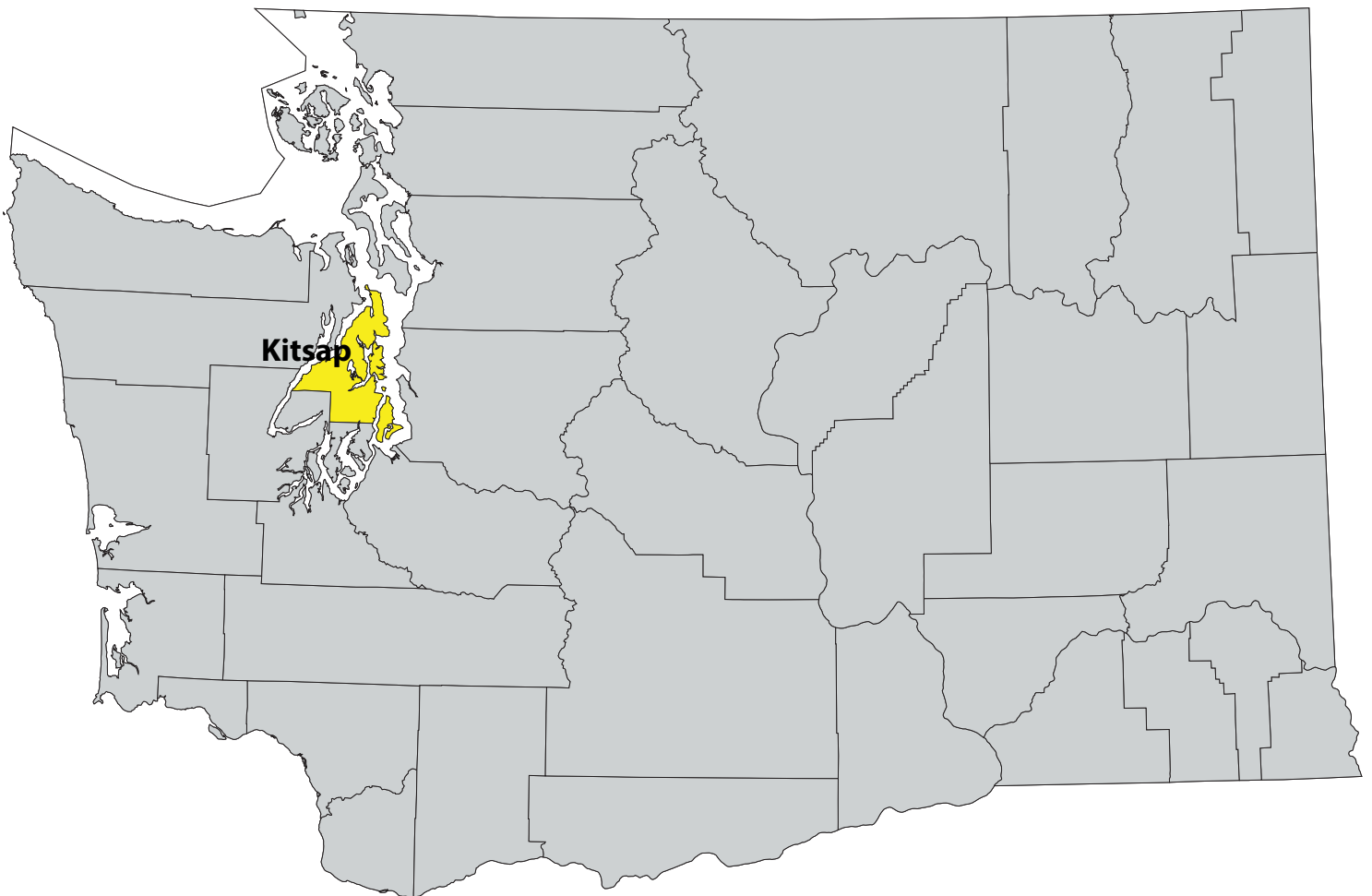
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

When asked what was missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework, participants shared a variety of ideas. Some people said that the lack of revenue for both the planning and the infrastructure was a key piece. Others shared that the term "encourage urban growth" needs to be defined in the context of GMA and how it applies to both urban and rural settings. Topics such as reforming the condominium liability rules, improving relationships with special districts, military and tribe involvement, and balancing the many goals of the GMA came up when discussing what was missing in the growth planning framework.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP SUMMARY

The elected officials of Snohomish county echoed much of what was said in the multi-sector workshop around the purpose and value of the growth planning framework. People emphasized that one size does not fit all. And places, both urban and rural areas, have different backgrounds, geographical, and geological challenges. Others shared that the growth planning framework piled on requirements, making it costly and complicated to comply. Themes that arose during the workshop included lack of funding for infrastructure, the challenges of being a bedroom community, environmental protection concerns, challenges with intergovernmental agency coordination, and that timelines for planning are not in sync. Some brought up the difficulty of engaging with public and others emphasized that the opioid crisis and public health should be a part of this framework. Multiple people in this workshop brought up the challenges how to balance growth with protecting open spaces. Further, participants expressed a need for flexibility under the framework to suit many different places, as well as explore social media and surveys as ways to connect with the public.

KITSAP WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP SUMMARY

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Took a summer and mapped all the road shoulder widths for cycling/walking
- Department of Ecology Established
- Forest Management Act 2017

Mass production and promotion of cars

- Cars focus of land use planning

Recession (2008 – present) – housing shortage

US Navy – stable economy

Kitsap transit oriented to serve primarily commuters

Development of Silverdale mall

- Naval bases
- Closure of mills
- Network of ferries/ bridges connecting to other counties

• Expansion of Olympic College and its offerings

• Lack of Gorst traffic solution

• Expansion of tribal business activities (both casinos, hotels and development)

• Construction of Military housing in Bremerton for WWII

Carrier home porting at NBK Bremerton

Growth in Seattle and housing cost increases

1. Amazon and Microsoft locating in Seattle area

2. Puget Sound salmon listed on ESA

3. OSO landslide

4. Fast ferry discussion

5. State school funding court case

6. OPG/ Land Trust Property Conservation Deal

7. Legalization of Maja Juana (marijuana)

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Development of PSN
- WWII
- Trident
- Development of Silverdale
- Tech boom in central Puget Sound
- Loss of passenger only ferry
- Adoption of GMA and subsequent valid comp plan

10 yr. Economic downturn

25 yr. GMA impact

50 yr. Growth of military

100 yr. water right law

- Silverdale NOT incorporating
- Increase in # of local farms and wineries

100 yr. Establishment of Puget Sound Navy yard

-90-70 yr. Ramp up of employment at ASNY during WWI and WWII (explosive growth)

10 yr. Economic growth in the Seattle metro – spill over to Kitsap County

- Expansion of Tacoma Narrows Bridge
- Passage of GMA

WSF Routes

- Bainbridge – Seattle
- Bremerton – Seattle

GMA passed

1855 Tribal Treaties

Population growth

Navy increases

GMA

1. Military expansion

2. Narrows bridge

3. SR16 – construction/ expansion

4. Federal housing policy

- VA loans

1. Comp Plan appeals

2. Negatively impacted our planning efforts and resources

- Timber industry/ logging
- Japanese internment
- WSDOT ferry service expansion
- Agate Pass Bridge
- Seattle Growth
- Recession
- All- Island City- Home Rule
- Change in Government -> City MGR/Council

- WWII
- Bangor Sub Base
- Kitsap Mall
- GMA

- Rise in housing costs
- Expansion of shipyard
- The downward trend of Bremerton

Growth and development with/in the region

- Court decisions (e.g. Boldt)
- Modifying/clarifying tribal/ treaty rights (fisheries)

CK Area

Buildout Bangor Base in 1970s

Buildout Kitsap Mall

Decision to build new hospital in Silverdale

- Growth and expansion of military presence and shipyard
- Mosquito ferry fleet, and later WSDOT ferry system opening transportation access to Seattle and Edmonds
- Construction of the Hood Canal Bridge
- City of Bainbridge Island becoming incorporated as a city

Increases in:

- Population (salmon decline)
- Technology and access thereof
- Average lifespan
- Curiosity/ education

Past-WWII shipyard growth- Bremerton to 80,000 people
Present-Seattle growth

Boldt Court decision

Kingston/ North Kitsap

- logging, farming, lumber mill, reductions
- changing to residential only- commuter community to Seattle/Edmonds area

Interest in non-motorized transportation has risen

Construction of NBK – Bangor

- Establishment of Naval base, Kitsap Puget Sound naval shipyard -> Bremerton buildup (1891)
- Establishment of Naval base Kitsap- Bangor submarine base (1970s) development in Silverdale

- Automobile as primary transportation source
- Naval base Kitsap Manchester- key port

The war and central Kitsap developments caused urbanization of Kitsap. GMA passage has caused reversal of historical development patterns.

Historic Impacts on Region:

- Establishment/ recognition of sovereign nations
- PSNS-IM7
- Alaska Gold Rush
- Boeing- M7C
- Microsoft, tech, ect.
- GMA
- Mt. Saint Hellen's
- Awareness of the environment

- State ferry system
- ESA listing of Puget Sound species

- Navy
- GMA/SMA/SEPA
- Timber industry ups and downs

- Increased demand for housing
- increased recreational demand (regionally and statewide)
- Transition of vacation/cabins to permanent housing
- Ferries/Agate Pass/ Tacoma Narrows Bridges
- Connecting Seattle to Tacoma- services, commerce, workforce, tourism)
- State highways: bisect communities, more difficult if not impossible for locals to have control over traffic impacts, development of parking, sidewalks, downtown corridor

Port Gamble/ Kingston/ Kitsap

- Growing demand for forest products

Growth of Naval base

Kingston connected by ferry service (car and passenger)

WWII- built up region as large military installation

Higher and higher real estate in Seattle

(Development pressure in Kitsap and Kingston)

1982: Creation of county housing authority

- election of Bremerton for the naval shipyard
 - transformation of community during world war in terms of population increase and housing supply
 - great recession
 - change in state law allowing islands to be city and vice versa
 - founding of port Kingston
 - county seat in Port Orchard
-

- Trident program to mitigate development of Bangor base and expected influx of Navy personnel (late 70s)

- Development of Silverdale a collaborative effort between the land owners, business people, and Kitsap county (mid 1980)

- Planning and development of the Bucklin Hill Ridgeway (early mid 1980s)

- Development of McCormick woods 1200 AC. P. U. D. (early 1990s)

Past events listed cannot happen with formula based planning that is not responsive to community needs. None of the four listed would be possible under GMA.

- Transportation challenges
 - Negative environmental impacts
-

Silverdale takes over retail

- Property values/ rental availability

- Increasing income inequality between service workers and tech workers

- Water protection regulations

- Legacy property divisions unrelated to environmental concerns/realities

- Early economy based on extraction of natural resources

Migration to Kitsap County of skilled workforce- economic development

- Military presence

- Maritime industry (70,000 employees)

- Ferry Operations -> transportation

Not fully satisfied on amount (or lack thereof) of safe streets

Raised two children; one finishing med school on starting law school.

- Concentrated rapid growth in Bremerton

- Sudden shift away from wartime economy

- Shift of commercial ____ to Silverdale from Bremerton, changed growth pattern

- (Lange?) lot/ dispersion of population across county reduced concentration in urban cities

- Established character

Navy location in Kitsap

- 1st Bremerton
 - Then Silverdale (Bangor)
-

- 2001 earthquake

- OSO landslide

- Development of Sound transit

- The region is aware of possibilities of nature and climate change

- The region is aware of the difficulties, lack of mobility, and deterioration of air quality.

-> How committed are people to resolutions?

- Created long-term infrastructure that effects growth patterns

- Created processes for coordinated development and the framework for environmental impact review/ mitigation

- Brings economic development, decreases access to affordable housing

Tribal changes, fisheries, casinos, retail, schools

- Kitsap county's population has quadrupled each of the past two 45 year periods

- We are now tied with Clark county as Washington's 2nd most densely populated.

- At this rate, by 2063 Kitsap will have a population of 1,300,000 people.

1. Military expansion fueled housing boom

2. Narrows bridge made south Kitsap a bedroom community

3. SR16 facilitated longer commutes

4. Federal housing policy fueled growth that led to GMA

- Kitsap's growth has resulted in only vacant parcels

- Many of these parcels are timberland, environmentally restricted or uneconomical to build parcels.

- We need to begin to plan for a population of 1.3 million and stop ignoring this growth

- Increased regional growth

- Increased diversity

- Risk of outpacing access to services

- Awareness of prevalent issues (instant access to information)

- State takeover of ferries

- Lumber economy late 1800s

- Short term/ thinking in planning critical infrastructure doesn't scale to match growth

- Stigma associated with old think

- Incorporation/ unincorporated areas of cities

- City v. county

Inconsistent planning, patchwork development, confused property owners

The history of our naval installations has led to the military and its contractors to be the leading employers and economic driver in the region

- Huge challenges with availability of affordable housing

- Lack of living wage jobs

- Lack of workforce housing (for teachers, law enforcement, ect.)

- 1 in 150 people in Kitsap experienced homelessness in 2017.

Designation of Kingston as UGA

- Impact of native tribal culture on Genesee populace (dugusmish & ___Gymble)

- M7C: good paying livable wages (Jon Invpel lason poor)

- GMA: dealing with reality of limited resources, limited developable land

- PSNS-IM7: impacts everything, preservation of fragile environments

- Tech: leading way to innovation economy

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Many workshop participants talked about the importance of open space and access to outdoor recreation, (this includes a mix of local parks and state/federal public lands) as an influence on the quality of life in Kitsap County. A thriving community includes a transportation system which provides mobility and options to move throughout the county, not just to commute to Seattle. For other participants, a thriving community includes access to quality K-12 education, high speed internet, housing and other services, regardless of income. Participants also mentioned the importance of neighborliness and local non-profits/faith-based entities to meet the needs of local residents, especially since Kitsap doesn't have access to the services and resources that may exist in a larger, urban area.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

In describing the future for communities across Kitsap County, many workshop participants described the importance of striking a balance between environmental preservation and growing economic opportunities, while still retaining the current sense of place and quality of life. Specifically, participants mentioned continued access to nature and parks, an economy resilient to ups and downs, and maintenance of the status quo. Others described a place to live, work, and play, with diverse housing options, and a short commute to work. Additional values to retain and express in the future included sense of independence, property rights, and local decision-making.

Actions required to reach that future include improved transit services, recognition of military job centers in land-use planning, adherence to long-term planning goals, and less dependence on pumping stormwater into Puget Sound.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Workshop participants frequently described the purpose and value of the growth planning framework as tool to enable efficient land-use and infrastructure planning. Additionally, attendees mentioned prevention of sprawl and the negative effects of growth, while striving to facilitate compact growth which would support mass transit options.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When discussing elements of the growth planning framework that work well, workshop participants commented on a diverse array of components—although some also included caveats. This list included:

- Distinction between urban and rural lands;

- Provision of population forecasting information by the state prevents jurisdictions from becoming exclusive gated communities;
- Protection of agricultural resource land;
- Proactive and systematic building of infrastructure;
- Attention called to the provision of affordable housing; and
- Reduction of shoreline “armoring.”

Some participants talked about how the planning framework has improved transit planning and has required the county to update and improve multi-modal transportation options, yet also noted room for improvement. Other participants observed that the growth planning framework forces community dialogue and decision-making.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Many workshop participants described elements of disconnect or incompatibility across jurisdictions, especially the interface with state or federal entities. Examples included inability of Washington State Ferries to meet local needs, conflicting rules and standards established by state and local entities regarding activities/uses on private lands, and disconnect between local planning efforts and military bases.

During this discussion, participants also identified a diverse array of specific elements of the growth planning framework that do not work well in Kitsap County. That list includes:

- Current reliance on “clubs,” not incentives—a shift from the 1970-80s era Kitsap Plan which did rely on incentives;
- Lack of benchmarks and process to measure success;
- Comprehensive plans and regulations undermine and conflict with private property rights;
- Lack of tools and resources to implement plans;
- Complexity of the framework leads to disengagement by the public;
- Lack of means to account for large transitory populations (i.e. military);
- Organized interest groups with political influence dilute the participation and voices of individual citizens during public engagement processes.

A few workshop participants noted that the prescriptive and formulaic nature of the Growth Management Act is incompatible and unresponsive to unique needs of the county. Specifically, the prohibition of sewers in the rural area eliminates a potential means of addressing the many failing drain fields which pollute the aquifer and the Puget Sound.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Many workshop participants talked about ways in which the current growth planning framework works in siloes and does not provide mechanisms or opportunities to address issues across jurisdictions or through multiple lenses. For example, some noted that while cities and counties have required level of service standards and must demonstrate concurrency, state agencies—specifically Washington State Department of Transportation—are exempt. Others talked about the need to better understand the linkages between land-use, transportation, and public, and the need for a framework that could increase public health through those linkages.

Additionally, workshop participants noted that the growth planning framework does not address climate change, nor does it require an implementation strategy, with timelines and corresponding specific actions.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Elected officials frequently identified many of the same themes as the multi-sector workshop participants. Responses regarding the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework included concentration of growth to reduce sprawl and minimize costs to provide infrastructure and utilities. The list of elements of the planning framework that work well included concentration of growth and requirements for concurrency. During the workshop, participants also noted that the planning framework ensures that capital budget decisions are consistent with the comprehensive plans.

Components of the growth planning framework that do not work well, according to those present, include the appeals process, prohibitions on sewer networks, exemptions of certain taxing districts from planning under the Growth Management Act, and the relationship between and obligations of cities and counties—specifically regarding annexation and financing. Participants also expressed frustration regarding a lack of enforcement mechanisms for the current growth planning framework.

In terms of the desired future for communities in Kitsap County, attendees also talked about the need to balance environmental preservation, economic growth, and provision of community/individual services and needs (i.e. access to internet and affordable housing). The steps identified by workshop participants to reach that future included specific actions such as modify the cycle of comprehensive plan and Shoreline Master Plan updates to correspond with the release of census data, address condo liability measures, provision of broadband internet as a public utility, increase transit options for seniors, and allow cities to plan beyond a 20-year time horizon.

Some elected officials observed the challenge of connecting with the public, (whom may be busy with work and family) through a lengthy, and complex planning process.

SKAGIT WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- 2003 Flood
- 2013 I-5 bridge reconstruction

1. Flood of 1993, etc.
2. Transition from natural resources economy
3. Endangered Species Act enactment
4. Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"

- Seattle City Light dams
- Baker River dams

Clearly defining an agricultural area to be set aside and protected

All the new craft breweries

- Bringing in major businesses to the area (economic growth)
- I-5 development (transportation growth)
- Seattle metro area expansion
- Zoning laws (limiting and defining growth, especially related to agriculture)
- Flooding

A. Diking and draining (logging) the valley

B. Railroad to help forest harvest

C. I-5 paved, 5000+ acres of prime agricultural land

D. Floods- all of them

E. Not sitting in the nuclear power plants

Presence of refineries

Hirst Case

Arrival of refineries

- Flooding
- In- Migration (from US)
- Immigration (from other countries etc.)
- Outcomes of GMA lawsuits

Growth of Seattle and Vancouver B.C

Diking and Drainage

Spotted owl decision as it has decimated the forest products industry

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Agricultural boom (the Skagit flood plane)
- Logging boom
- Salmon canary boom and bust
- Oil refinery boom (and bust?)
- Tourist industry boom

Agriculture 40 zoning (circa 70's)

- I-5 auto workers
- Cascade mall

Floods

The 9.0 Cascadia subduction zone earthquake of 2025

Skagit county transportation resiliency study

1. Post 2014 economic boom that has brought more jobs to the region but also growth and affordable housing issues

2. Challenge of affordable housing

- managing growth environmental impacts
- integration of new commerce into various communities

Skagit Instream Flow Rule:

2001 :) (happy face)

2006 :((sad face)

2013 >:/ (angry face)

The great Recession

Farm processes

I-5 thru circa 50's Skagit

National parks and forests

- Saving land for future generations
- Clean water
- Clean Air
- Mitigates climate change

Boldt decision and Damd Dams

Hirst decision and legislative SB6091 "Hirst Fix"

Instream flow rules exempt wells, rural residents

1. (Flood) altered land use patterns, helped preserve agriculture
2. (Transition from natural resource economy) developed new economy, new land use patterns
3. Changed land use patterns, changed economy, attracted new residents
4. New focus on environmental values, led to rejection of agricultural practices (small farms)

- Diking / draining the estuary
- Running 1-5 (monster) thru middle of farm and flood plains
- GMA
- Spotted owl
- Population explosion
- Climate change

1. Settlers came to mine, not enough gold
2. Logging was next but not at a sustainable rate | the first round
3. Once logged Agriculture came as the delta was dived and population grew
4. Baby boom has little increase in the 1950's -60's
5. The land prices started to double in late 1980's with Everett and Whioby Navy growth
6. ESA listing in 2000 started ecosystem management

Increased tourism; valuable cities (towns) -> La Conner Anacortes

Human/ nature conflicts

1. Now looking for sustainable economic + ecosystem balance
2. Historical view of never ending resources, now we are aware there is a carrying capacity

Key Events:

1. Early landscape modifications , clearing farms, diking, drainage, etc..
2. Reservation of national forest and parks
3. Construction of railroads and early transportation routes
4. Freeways
5. Early efforts by Skagit county to preserve farms
6. Environmental movement and laws
7. GMA planning and Skagit's implementation

1. The early landscape modifications and infrastructure established Skagit county's basic economic, geographic, and development structure.
2. Early farm provisions, environmental laws, and implementation have to a large extent fixed the early forms in place and slowed the pace of change to a to the basic structure.

Increased diverse population (i.e. 50% of Mt. Vernon high in Latino)

We have a huge portion of Skagit County especially suited to grow tree that has become underutilized due to timber harvest because of Spotted Owl.

2017 Governor Smart Community Award

- City of Sedro-Wodley, Port of Skagit and Skagit County
- Smart Partnerships Award for Northern State Hospital Suburban Plan

Less natural resource diversity from man's desire/need to control/making a living

Less resilience to big changes and distribution

1-5 has bottlenecked the river and reduced farming (increased flood risk)

- GMA started to manage some of this

People come here to see agricultural and natural resources, outdoor recreation and tourism

North Cascade National Park created

- Tulip Festival
- Wild and scenic Skagit

Economic growth/vitality (supporting families and kids)

Agricultural and environmental limits on most land use

Community much better connected through transportation

Limited economic growth leading to relatively few younger families and kids staying in the area vs. people coming into area

Strong rural sense even as area urbanized

- Building in hazard areas
 - Loss of salmon runs and other native species
-

Population boom 1990's

- Poor housing stock
 - Lack of transportation infrastructure = need smart rail
 - Loss of agriculture land and riparian habitat
 - Loss of flood plains
-

Preserve access to public lands and create/ preserve important habitat

Skagit has not been planned/ developed with natural hazards/catastrophes plus global climate change in mind

- Northwest Mystics
 - La Conner/ Skagit
 - Relatively low traffic
 - Agricultural constraints leading to challenges for farmers
 - Metro Seattle growth leading to housing/ property price increases
 - Zoning / land use limitations leading to lack of affordable housing
-

A. Conserves Skagit soils for food security and local economy

B. Conversion of farmland to any other use threatens the local agriculture economy

C. Failure to provide affordable housing in King and Snohomish counties threatens resource conversion.

Mt Vernon flood wall

10 yrs. Influx of people due to housing costs in Seattle

25 yrs. Loss of mills due to Spotted Owl

50 yrs. The timber industry recognizing the need to have a permit system to ensure our right to harvest timber.

Also the loss of Federal timber management

100 yrs. The railroads moving into the watersheds

The loss of Federal management created an economic crisis for the rural portions of our timber counties. Many of our present social ills can be attributed to this action.

Listing of Chinook forced watershed planning

Hirst decision and "Hirst Fix" made rural residential development uncertain to many across the state

- May still have more uncertainty to what the rules are today
-

Floods have affected building patterns/ development opportunities

Tribal presence, influence

Farmlands attract visitors, tourists, enrich and attract more residents

- Enrich diversity and the economy
 - Increases sustainability and health of communities- as long as the amenities are not spoiled or degraded
-

The Skagit county landscape has been developed and maintained with great aesthetic beauty and sensitivity

- Fish and wildlife still thrive here
 - Ecosystems is not as degraded as elsewhere
-

Tribes' presence, rich natural environment, wildlife, fish, beauty, marine and riverine water environments

Establishment of farmlands in the Skagit valley

Secondary logging

Establishment of daffodil and tulip festival in the farmlands

Ferries to San Juan Islands

State parks

Wealth of beauty, richness, attracting visitors

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Key themes that emerged during the conversation on quality of life and needs for the community to thrive included resilient economies and jobs, diverse and affordable housing options, and access to goods, services, and recreation. Some participants noted that Skagit County needs to ensure that the forestry and agricultural economies remain resilient to reduce the affects the boom and bust cycle have on both the local economy and the natural environment. Others talked about needing to acknowledge that there is a limit to how much growth can be accommodated, and that the long-term carrying capacity needs to be determined to ensure both environmental sustainability and economic vitality of Skagit County.

Some also expressed a need to apply a sustainability lens to local decision making, to have a balance between natural resource and other sector jobs, and to understand how natural systems provide for the entire community. Others remarked on the need for diverse and affordable housing options to provide options for residents and enable working class people to continue to live within the community. Many participants also talked about the needs for mobility and accessibility—a built-environment that has multi-modal connectivity, with access to trails and parks, to jobs, and to services such as high-quality education and mental health care.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

The conversation on the desired future for Skagit County had many similarities to the conversation on values and needs to thrive. Skagit County has safe, healthy, yet affordable communities for all citizens, open space and access to nature, strong economy with family wage jobs, and a healthy built environment conducive to multi-modal mobility. However; after describing those values and vision, participants went on to identify how that future might be realized. Suggested means to achieving affordable housing included mandatory subsidized housing, incentive options, and State provision of tools and/or resources for local communities to address their housing needs. Some talked about the need to consider the maintenance and development of those values at a regional scale, rather than just at a local level.

During this portion of the workshop, participants also identified needs for more and better information, as well as greater transparency, in decision-making. A few mentioned the need to remove planning out of the hands of elected officials and into the hands of the local people—specifically the example of participatory budget and permit processes utilized in Richmond, Virginia.

Additional comments and observations include:

- Need for difficult and honest conversations;
- The difficulty in thinking about and envisioning the future when people and communities are struggling to have current needs met;
- People's apprehension for change;
- Lack of civic literacy and public engagement, especially in the next generation;
- Need for a long-term vision held by both the community and elected officials; and
- Need for more infrastructure and public transportation investments.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

During the large-group report out, participants articulated the following thoughts regarding the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework:

- Creates a system for transparent and honest decision-making where local governments are required to accept a certain amount of growth and figure out how to accommodate and serve that growth;
 - Protects rural areas from sprawl;
 - Establishes a minimum requirement to protect the most environmentally sensitive areas; and
 - Requires inter-jurisdictional collaboration.
- *What parts of the growth planning framework do you believe work well in your community/county/region to achieve the desired future and why?*

Some elements of the growth planning framework that individuals feel work well in Skagit County include some degree of local control and decision-making, increased communication and coordination (in comparison to pre-Growth Management Act); and the conservation of resource lands and protection of shorelines. Participants also noted that the once a year, cumulative impacts of plan amendments represented an improvement over the fragmented and expedient processes in place before passage of the Growth Management Act.

Workshop attendees observed that some aspects of the growth planning framework have good intentions, but not necessarily in practice. For example, concurrency at least requires a jurisdiction to describe the link between facilities and land use planning, but the implementation of concurrency needs improvement. Another participant noted that while the urban growth area protected escalation of rural land costs due to speculation, the limitations on land supply in the urban area has led to increased valuation in the cities.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Workshop attendees shared a long list of elements—from funding to implementation to lack of flexibility— of the growth planning framework that do not work well in Skagit County. In terms of funding, many participants noted that long range planning does not receive sufficient resources. Some expanded on that concept, observing that long range planning needs to be funded as an essential function, independent from permit fees. Others noted that while there are many models for urban planning, there is a lack of planning models that take into account the unique situations and circumstances of rural cities and counties.

With regards to implementation, some participants noted that the housing goal in the Growth Management Act lacks mechanisms to ensure implementation and accountability. Others noted that while one plan may reach implementation in a county, a similar plan in a different county—if appealed—may spend years in litigation. This process leads to adjoining jurisdictions adopting different requirements. Concerning lack of flexibility, individuals noted a disconnect between and lack of opportunities within the comprehensive planning process to respond to the market.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Workshop attendees then had a diverse and detailed conversation on elements missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework. Points raised by participants include:

- Many planning models exist for urban areas, but few, if any, exist for rural areas.
 - Policymakers (and rule makers) established individual components of the growth planning framework, but nothing exists to integrate or reconcile those policies and rules.
 - The planning framework does not include or acknowledge climate change.
 - The Growth Management Act ignores hazard mitigation and emergency planning, nor does it provide a mechanism for evaluating the value of ecosystem services. The GMA could also better serve equity and social justice.
 - The comprehensive planning process could benefit from model plans (concept in the Voluntary Stewardship Program) and/or the technical support and role that the Department of Ecology plays in the Shoreline Master Planning.
 - The growth planning framework could benefit from an increased emphasis on improving education and public transportation.
- *What additional data or research is needed to inform possible changes to the state growth planning framework?*

Additional data or information needs identified by workshop attendees include:

- Technology or processes to assist local governments in developing scenarios and conducting cost/benefit analysis; and
- Examples of jurisdictions using social media well to communicate the planning process and opportunities for citizen engagement.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

During the workshop for elected officials in Skagit County, participants brought up many similar comments and ideas. Participants described the purpose and value of a state growth planning framework as a structure for directing where growth will occur and preventing urban sprawl and as a process for avoiding the negative consequences of growth while also building a livable community with needed infrastructure.

Areas where the planning framework works well include opportunities for local decision-making, insulation from partisan politics, engaging the public, the provision of predictability about the planning process, and protection of agricultural land. Some emphasized the protection of critical areas, such as streams; while others mentioned transportation planning across jurisdictions.

Electeds focused on the many policy and governance elements of the current state growth planning framework that do not work well. Specifically, piecemeal amendments and revisions to state statutes make the framework confusing and difficult for local elected officials to understand, a lack of state funding to local governments to implement and administer policy at the local level, and the perceived influence of the Puget Sound region in developing policy that must be adopted by the entire state. Other attendees identified very technical and specific elements that do not work well, such as the state

liability laws regarding condominiums, the length of the time between updates (too long), and the difficulty to adapt zoning codes to new uses and new ideas. Participants also noted various global factors contributing to rising housing costs, including climate migration and foreign investments in vacant real estate properties.

Elected officials identified very similar values for the desired future as the multi-sector workshop: living wage jobs, affordable housing options for all income levels, and protected natural resources and environment. Steps required to reach that future range from very technical and specific to broader process and policy changes. Specifically, attendees identified:

- Need to better engage the community and utilize new modes of communication and technology;
- Need to involve tribes in a way that recognizes their unique sovereign status;
- Easing the permit process for accessory dwelling units (ADUs); and
- Need to learn about best practices and innovative ways to provide housing for a variety of needs – aging in place, multi-generational housing – and public/private partnerships.
- More investments in public transportation.

In terms of public engagement, elected officials talked about the need to meet constituents where they are (rather than rely on individuals to visit their office) and the need to utilize multiple modes of communication to connect with different generations.

WHATCOM WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

Army Corps	Industry comes to Whatcom in 50-60's Intalco, refineries	Proximity to lower B.C.
Drainage / diking	Firdale transitions from a town to a bedroom community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> economic influences on local economy
Agricultural areas damage to salmon habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition from dairy to berry in agriculture High land prices in L. Mainland drive farmers south of the border, dairy cannot compete 	Event: Bellingham Bay filled in
Colonization (Tribes -> Reservations)		Affects: loss of 200 acres of eelgrass beds to other important habitat for marine resources.
Poverty segregation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other economic opportunities
Zoning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setbacks Non-European style development Local control and differences 	Expo 86: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosive growth in lower mainland Spilled into Whatcom 	Event: Industry and Poln (pollution?) of Bellingham Bay with toxic legacy sites
water pollution	GMA Act: slowly shifting growth to cities	Affects: Burden to clean up these sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to re-envision the Bellingham waterfront

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

GMA and LAMIRD changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts of this on rural development extensions and utilities outside cities Growth patterns 5-acre sprawl 	Cultural transition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth of East Indian farmers in north county Move berry farms than dairy farms half of berry farmers are Indo-Canadian 	Event: Population growth Affects: Increased need for planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased water quality and other environmental issues Housing and other issues related
Boldt Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribal- nonnative tensions lasting Cultivating uncertainty 	Development of cities along seashore and rivers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> portions of cities in flood plains lifestyle choices 	Development of heavy industry at Cherry Pt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high paying jobs concern over air/
Taxation Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero income Prop tax (high increase) Hard to hold onto prop if cash poor over time Open space- allows for subdivision even while benefitting 	Conversion of lowlands from forest to agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strong agriculture economy water quality concerns 	Using Lake Whatcom as a water supply for Bellingham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> initial use of growth management in the county's watershed (water quality concerns led to development restrictions)

Key Events:

Wild fires, mud slides, white supremacy, traffic, wild fish contaminated with farm fish and disease, dramatic decline in animal populations

Effects:

Cognitive dissonance, refugee (mortality?), culture and family dissolution, disconnect from cause and effect on natural world, excess in consumption

Events:

1. Downward trend in salmon stocks in Nooksack Basin in last 50 years

- Local fisherman and processors have to go elsewhere

2. Dependence on Alaska fisheries for local fisherman

- Important to maintain good relationships with that state

3. Lack of knowledge of fisheries and maritime sector of Whatcom county industries

- Ideal for whole state

4. Assertion of sovereignty rights of (Lummi?) Nation has made them an important factor in all the natural resource issues in county

5. Rejection of Cherry Point Coal Port by Corps of Engineers.

- Shows power to tribes
-

Pipeline and coal train controversies

- Making People take sides, fight, emotions run high
-

Population growth

- Affects housing, traffic - everything. Especially water. (As a long time reader of science fiction - the general consensus has always been that the limit to growth will be shortage of fresh water.)
-

Quality of Life: beauty, cleanliness, friendliness, economy doing okay, space, water, weather

Need to Thrive:

transportation to and out of area (the train should stop here). Solve water problems.

Growth Plans: dense in town if preserve rural areas schools. Solve water problem. Change to renewables (have a project like Gray's Harbor) housing.

a. Expulsion of immigrants from Bellingham/ Whatcom in the early 20th century (Chinese, Punjabi, etc.)

b. Treaty of 1855 for Lummi and Nooksack

c. Closure of Georgia Pacific in Bellingham

d. Canneries and over fishing

e. Mining in Bellingham for coal in late 19th and early 20th century

f. Construction of Bells Fair Mall

These events result in tension in the community, displacement, exploitation of people and natural resources. We are still trying to reconcile these events in our history.

Environmental Regulations

- shift natural resources industries
 - clean air, clean water, etc. farming, forestry, fishing
-

High growth of Seattle and Vancouver metro areas

- increased home prices and land prices
-

Automobile dependency

- poor land use
 - poor health
 - increased cost of government services
 - increased cost of living
-

Growth of higher education

- WWU, BTC, NW Indian College, WWC
 - fresh ideas, diversity of perspective
-

Events affect the present:

- Economic diversification creates more jobs -> households -> greater economic resources and opportunities
 - Migration (US to West coast) and immigration into area creates demographic diversity
 - Whatcom county more integrated into Seattle/ Vancouver megalopolis
-

1. Cherry Point coal terminal

2. Whatcom creek fire

1. assertion of tribal authority / sovereignty and united groups and citizens

2. Comprehensive safety changes in national pipeline inspection and safety

1. Explosive population growth over past 4 decades

2. Gradual shift in response to population growth

- from expansion and sprawl to new ways to accommodate growth thru higher density urbanism
-

Agriculture, fishing, logging, crops, families, schools, church, history

Key Events Past 100 years:

- Road connections to Seattle
- Railroads and port/ docks
- Farming, timberland and fishing for first 70 years in decline past 30 years
- Bellingham consolidated into one city from four
- Start up growth of WWII

-
- The shutdown of Georgia Pacific
 - Mass population growth in the cities
 - Change from rural society to an urban society, loss of blue collar family wage jobs
 - Turn working forests into urban playground with no regards to the people who live and work and play there

Invention of the automobile

Determines current development pattern of extensive sprawl throughout the county.

(Sorry GMA, but the car is the planner that matters)

100 years:

- Location, location, location.
- NW Port of Entry, regional center
- WWU established
- Alaska connection
- Dawes Act leads to downfall of the tribes

ADU conversations in Bellingham

shows diversity of opinions on housing issues

People come to Whatcom and Bellingham for the quality of life and diverse lifestyle opportunities available.

•Economic diversification

- Pipeline explosion
- Bellingham, Burlington become major retail destinations for Vancouver BC region
- E.S.A salmon listing (Endanger Species Act)

10 years:

- 2008 Recession and slow recovery under built and under invested
- Growth didn't occur as planned
- Resurgence of Lummi Nation
- Regional airport expansion of (BLI?)
- Growth of high value agriculture
- Water wars
- Large regional firms based in Bellingham VANISH (e.g. Higgs?)
- Job creation and housing opportunities are both becoming scarce

Key Events:

- Depot market square opens (tourism/ community)
 - Greenways levies continue to pass (tourism/ community)
 - Boundary Bay Breweries opens as first one of 14 current breweries (tourism)
 - Fairhaven revitalization past 15 years (tourism)
 - WWU (Western Washington University) opened 125 years ago (economic development)
 - G.P. closed its doors (change in downtown)
 - Pipeline explosion (community awareness)
-

50 years

- Creation of "recreation" community that have substandard development
- Two refineries and aluminum smelter built
- Georgia Pacific buys the mill from local owners
- Resources boom- timber hull

-
- European settlement
 - 1907 Bellingham riots
 - racist history continues to the present and It's not completely resolved. Also, Whatcom county is still primarily white.
 - KKK/ white supremacist groups
 - Closing of Georgia Pacific / Decline of logging town
 - industries of Whatcom have changed. More of a focus on other things including recreation
 - Creation of WWU - large employer and affects culture of the town
 - Creation of I-5

Native culture, European settlement, timber and agriculture, shipping, railroad expansion, fishing/ canning industry, foundation of WWU, state highways, Interstate 5, GMA, outdoors lifestyle economy, Seattle and other urban refugees

-
- Trail connections/ hikes
 - Breweries increasing in Bellingham
 - Ski to Sea
 - Star Park Ferndale
 - Bellis Fair Mall
-

- Green ways levy
- Parks acquisition
- Places for gardens – Victory Gardens
- Farmers markets
- Preservation of farmland
- Preservation of stream corridors / wetlands

Key Events:

1. Define community / region
 - a. Establish WWU and WCC
 - b. Passage of GMA
 - c. Establishment of Cherry Point industrial area

2. How do they affect present?

- a. Large population of students, high demand for rentals
- b. Artificially restrict land supply for housing which drives up prices
- c. Major employer that raises median wages to compete with other counties

1990 Passage of GMA:

- Use as a tool to implement (___) parties agenda
- increase cost of housing
- increase regulatory oversight in the name of protecting the environment
- decrease economic growth and job availability
- decrease private property rights
- decrease effecting pursuit of life, liberty and happiness

1. Climate change sea level rise and adverse impacts in US and the world
2. Increasing movement of people – climate refugees, quality of life moves

Past 25 years:

- Bellis Fair
- Cherry Point industries
- GP operation then closure
- Harbor improvements for fishing fleet and recreational
- Bellingham sewage treatment upgrade and water plant expansion
- Lummi economic development

25 years

- Good relation with lower Mainland BC
- Alaska ferry
- End of strong forest economy
- Rural decline
- Crash of the Herry fishing and fishery in general

1. Growth of tech companies in Seattle region (Microsoft, Amazon)
2. Ripple effects on housing, jobs, economic vitality, planning

1. Eruption of Mt. Rainier
2. Changed geography

Q – When will it happen again and how can we prepare/ respond?

Historical Exclusionary Policies and Expulsions:

1. Lummi people and 1855 Pt. Elliot Treaty
2. Chinese exclusion / expulsion (x2)
3. Sikh expulsion
4. Japanese internment
5. Mass deportations (currently)

Tech industry growth in Seattle area

- More people moving to Pacific North West (PNW) putting more pressure on housing market, more cars on roads causing people to drive to affordability and/ or increasing homeless population

Bellis Fair Mall

- changed all of the local downtowns, slow recovery especially when cities don't have remaining tax base

Native American Casinos / Re-Emergence

- various altered and still altering dynamics

1. The Great Recession housing market crash

2. Shortages of housing, causes rental and home price increases. No starter homes that median wage earners can afford. Families cost burden paying too much for housing

10 yrs. Whatcom county rolled back the city of Bellingham growth boundary and Ferndale

25 yrs. Start of GMA

50 yrs. I-5 built through Bellingham as a 4 lane highway

100+ yrs. Stevens treaties with First Nations

10 yrs. Set in place better urban planning that includes cost of facilities

25 yrs. Future land use (for now) will require a more transparent process

50 yrs. This highway may be undersized but will create a major decision point for the future of how transport will take place

100 yrs. Our shared future with tribes/ non tribes is part of who we all are.

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Many workshop participants talked about having jobs, economic opportunities, connection to the natural environment and a working landscape, and a stewardship of both forest and fish. Access to nature, recreation, and having a healthy environment was frequently mentioned, as was concerns and a desire to avoid the growth and environmental challenges that places like King County are experiencing. Additionally, workshop participants talked about the need to avoid the traffic congestion challenges of King County.

Participants talked about how access to affordable housing, education/job training, and economic opportunities were key and needed for people to thrive. Educational institutions such as Western Washington University were mentioned as was the need for more technical education and training opportunities.

Workshop participants also described the role of nonprofits in building community connections and that people living in Whatcom County are invested in their communities and take pride in their environment.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Many workshop participants called out the need to further both environmental protection and agricultural/economic activities to pass on healthy and vibrant communities to future generations. Others talked about the need for respectful dialogue among diverse opinions to facilitate inclusion and resolution of conflict over resources. Specifically, some cited the relationship between tribal and non-tribal communities and the importance of creating a shared vision for the future.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

In describing the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework, workshop attendees commonly used adjectives such as consistency, transparency, and predictability. Specifically, the Growth Management Act provides consistency between cities and counties on a regional scale. The planning framework also provides mechanisms for local governments to conduct and “show” their work to the public.

What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?

Themes that emerged during the conversation on elements of the growth planning framework that work well include concentration of growth, coordination between cities and counties, and consideration of long-term impacts. For example, some workshop participants noted that most growth occurs in the cities, which prevents sprawl and conserves agricultural lands.

Others observed that the planning framework provides a process (and encouragement) for counties and cities to coordinate their land-use and capital planning and connect codes and regulations to the long-term vision of communities. The growth planning framework also enables and provides a process for local governments to consider the long-term affects of potential development, which was described by some participants as an element that works well.

Some talked about how local government policies and regulations have been strengthened to conserve working agricultural and forestry lands. Others talked about how the protection of critical areas has improved under the current growth planning framework.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Workshop participants generated a lengthy and wide-ranging list of elements of the growth planning framework that do not work well. This lineup included:

- Redundancies, particularly between Shoreline Management Act and State Environmental Policy Act, cause uncertainty and delays.
- Restrictions on local areas of more intensive rural development (LAMIRDS) prevent growth and economic development in the rural areas.
- The 14 goals of the Growth Management Act do not receive equal attention or provide balanced approach.
- Algorithm used to calculate buildable lands shows more capacity than actual availability.
- Planning framework does not have standards or process to reduce risk of exposure to natural hazards (such as landslides or lahars).
- Planning process requires significant time and resources, particularly the appeals and permitting processes.
- Current regulations do not support local food production or agricultural activities—regulations work well to preserve agricultural land, but do not support the farmer – its not farming without farmers – nor the building and maintenance of necessary infrastructure.
- There isn't a way to connect tribal and non-tribal planning efforts under the current system. Tribes plans and land use investments have a lot of impact and positive benefits to the region. A mechanism is needed to support and create collaboration and coordination between tribal and non-tribal governments.
- There is a lack of buildable land and this is contributing to housing shortages.
- It takes too long to resolve problems under the current system – appeals processes, permits take too long to process, and long-standing conflicts over water.
- Emergency management plans and planning for hazards events is not integrated into local and regional planning and standards to do so do not exist.
- Mechanisms are needed to address the unique circumstances that exist with regards to LAMIRDS. To be able to explore how small towns and LAMIRDS can accommodate growth and infill while still ensuring protection of rural and farm lands. – the limitations of the 1990s GMA provisions are too restrictive and need to be looked at.
- Better integration of water and land use planning, in-stream flows is needed.
- LAMIRD restrictions results in creating economic sinkholes in the rural area where they can't innovative and meet changing local needs and evolving markets. What happens inside the logical outer boundaries should have flexibility, because the setting of the logical outer boundary serves

to protect the rural area from sprawl.

- Voluntary and incentive-based approaches as opposed to strictly regulatory approaches are needed.
- Regulations that too rigidly restrict local production of food and fiber can contribute to global impacts, for example, the carbon impacts of having to import food from far away.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Workshop attendees shared detailed and diverse ideas of situations or concerns not currently addressed in the growth planning framework. Some mentioned the lack of linkages between land-use planning and physical geography—specifically the need to consider water availability and/or vulnerability to natural hazards in planning. Other common themes included information accessibility, dispute resolution, and environmental justice. For some, access to information meant that potential buyers received clear information about potential risks and allowed uses prior to purchasing a piece of property. Others talked about the need to allow new modes of communication, such as websites, to give public notices.

Regarding dispute resolution, some talked about the need for a process to reconcile diverging land-uses, such as working forests and recreation. Others mentioned the cost of the appeals process and need for more alternative dispute resolution. Some also suggested that state certification of plans, “safe-harbors,” and/or scenario planning with cost/benefit analysis could reduce the time and resources allocated to the appeals process. Lastly, several mentioned that the planning framework does not provide space to consider environmental justice.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials in Whatcom County described the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework as an opportunity for a jurisdiction to think about the future and connect with community, a process to facilitate intentional growth and maintain quality of life, and/or a statewide standard in which to have those conversations.

Citizen engagement and the periodic cycle of plan updates were both cited by attendees as elements of the planning framework that work well, although some acknowledged that it is easier to focus on the things that don’t work well. As to the latter, workshop attendees mentioned elements from financing to partisan politics to immigration to social equity.

Regarding financing, some specifically called out Washington’s regressive tax structure and a need to raise revenues in a way better aligned with current realities and needs of communities. Others raised the topic of partisan gridlock and the difficulty developing and reaching bi-partisan solutions.

In terms of immigration, the Growth Management Act does little to account for their unique needs for housing, health care, and social services. Some also mentioned the anticipated race/demographic shift and the need to examine which elements of the Growth Management Act perpetuate race/income inequalities and how those elements could be addressed.

Participants at this workshop described the desired future of Whatcom County in many of the same ways as those who attended the multi-sector workshop. Themes included: affordable housing, quality education, clean environment, and economic growth. Additionally, participants noted the importance of balancing community interests and individual rights as well as the need for opportunities to retain young people in the community. Attendees also talked about the need to utilize community partnerships to maintain the momentum of public dialogues and frame discussions around needs of the community in-between plan updates.

ISLAND WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Glacial formed islands
- Two army bases built pre-WWII
- 1998 UGAs established
- Freeland and Clinton court cases over LAMRID versus UGA
- Boomers/Professionals from Seattle retiring in IC
- Pre-GMA platting in the 1950s/1960s
- Better understanding of sole source aquifer seawater intrusion
- 1990: island county designated as a critical water supply Servia area under the water coordination act of 1970

- Formation of Ebey's Reserve (50 yrs)
- state parks, fire
- military installations
- NAs (80yrs)
- Seasonal native American use
- Bridge/Ferry/Highway
- Donation land claim act
- County sole source aquifer
- Whidbey Camano Land Trust
- securing development rights to preserve natural habitat
- town of Coupeville exception to GMA (as it is within a national historic reserve)

1. GMA and adoption of Comprehensive plan and shoreline master plan in Island County. i.e. concurrency laws that limit development when wait time at (intersections?) are exceeded
- Military expansion - with reckless abandon
- Growth defined as increased population
- Whidbey/Camano land trust coalition
- Foundry of good cheer
- cultural war with native Americans (B bay ...)
- Universally fertile farmland

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

1. Buff destabilization, water contamination, deforestation, population not supported locally

2. Deforestation has drained our single source aquifers, population has brought pollution

GMA restricts adequate housing options on Camano Island

1) Animal species have flourished in the sea and on land.

Deforestation for outside use has caused bluff failures and water loss

Navy and population has caused pollution and poisoning of groundwater and air

Deforestation has caused a loss of bluffs and water

Past 25 years:

- slow and often incomplete research to help farmers develop WORKABLE good practices
- too much emphasis on growth instead of development

1) Ebey Reserve - beauty but stop growth

Naval Base - need to expand for operational needs

2. GMA and Comprehensive plans with specific goals at least force jurisdictions to engage in some level of visionary local long range planning. In Island county this legislation has provided a legal process to hold jurisdiction accountable (GMA hearings BO and courts) SMA has enabled the prevention and open water open (farm) fish net pens

- Military expansion and firearm noise has negatively affected quality of life and GMA loop holes enable side steps

Mix of pockets of urban/suburban density spread within rural water quality issues

1. Whidbey was primarily agricultural in its early days. People farmed to eat and generate revenue. We have lost a huge part of this agricultural heritage. Huge areas of prime farm land have been used for airfields, navy base, and housing. Farmland, once it has gone is rarely retrievable. Residents value the scenic attractions of agriculture, it is part of our rural character- tourists appreciate it too.

2. We are no longer an agricultural community, we are now a desirable residential, retirement, and second home community. If we are not careful we will lose the rest of the farmland to residential activity. The land is now worth too much, to be able to start a new farm.

1. Changes in access to IC (bridges, ferries)

Navy-WI during WWII (military economics exceeding agriculture)

2. Polarization of industry segments on communities (military industrial activity – noise, pollution vs. rural character- farming, quiet pastoral lifestyle)

1) Unusual amount of forest lands closed to development

2) Unusual amount of NFO support to disadvantaged communities

3) Unusually non-diverse county population

4) Unusually robust agricultural comm....

5) Neg and positive impact of NAS

Fort Casey and Ebey's established WWI and II

- Ebey's reserve established
- Navy base established outside of oak harbor
- establishment of GMA rural areas down zoned and RAIDS/UGAs established
- population bean growing slower and aging after 2006-2007
- Navy greatly influences the economy
- Strict design and development regulations in Ebey's but has preserved very scenic area
- left with many small parcels along shoreline

Keys Events:

- Euro-American settlement
- Extermination of aboriginal inhabitants
- Commodification of land (private property)
- Boom-bust economic cycles
- Extractive industries (esp. logging and farming)
- Introduction of exotic species (esp. plant and rabbits)
- Conversion of prairies to agriculture
- Conversion of native forest ecosystems
- Increased mobility shortening effective distance to mainland
- Deception pass bridge
- Militarization of north Whidbey

Military – old installations now provide public open space and access to waterfront

History preservation of Ebey's landing

Past 10 years:

- a return to valuing agriculture and the innovations accompanying it
- awareness of climate change
- negative impacts to our tax base and natural resources from unintentionally bad practices on the part of the military bases (this is NOT anti-military, but recognition that more needs to be done to make sure our military is not harming our capacity for resilience and sustainability here!)

1) Shorelines of island county have been modified with armoring (seawalls, bulkheads) and fill to create land and protect structures affects the present

2) early pioneers modified the land by building dikes to create farmland and current residents live with the consequences of those actions, which can include flooding, etc

1) a. native lands taken by European settlers

b) shorelines sold to private owners

c) navy arrives on Island, multiple locations, changed mission from WWII mission of defense to warfare training and noisy jets

d) public/private establishment of the Ebey's National Historical Reserve

e) Establishment of state and county parks

f) incentives (tax) for logging- NOT preservation

Land Trust- preservation of ag land, open spaces, environmentally sensitive areas

GMA – ensured that commercial sprawl did not occur, tended to keep commercial/residential/services concentrated

1. The establishment of naval air station Whidbey island NASWI in the early 1940s

2. NASWI helped establish oak harbor as the largest city on the island. Their presence affected/affects the physical growth and pattern for the entire island. It also brings a large number of people here on a fairly frequent basis (3 yr tours)

(1)

- Ebay
- The recession
- Global presence of US military
- Shoreline development

(2)

- The reserve
- Impact on community development loss of services
- Increased military presence and local impact
- Environmental impact

• Europeans arrive... 150 years ago – existing community is affectively extinguished

• market/commodity economy arrives... existing bio community is massively altered

* Local (farmers market) model 100-50 years ago

• Regional/national model

• Boeing/Microsoft/Amazon “place” becomes less important to this dominant model

What are the key events?

- Navy base in Oak Harbor
- Great Recession
- Increased broadband
- Creation of Ebey’s reserve
- Funding cuts for public infrastructure
- GMA adoption

How’s this affecting the present?

- Concentration of population in OH, navy planes and personnel increasing dramatically in near future
- Reduced rural jobs, housing options, while increased opportunity for home-based internet business
- Protection of historic central Whidbey landscape
- No reasonable way to increase density in a NMUGA w/o utility (specifically sewer)
- Restricted rural sprawl, protection of environment

Migration to this general area– Microsoft, Boeing, Amazon have all helped drive economic development in this area and a surge in population growth

The establishment of Ebey’s National Historic Reserve helped this area create a unique identity and helped preserve a great cultural and natural resource that drives tourism

Navy presence on the island continues to be a major economic driver and shaped the cultural landscape as well

1900-1970: farming, logging, village life, seasonal recreation

Post 1970: unchecked suburban growth

Pre 1900: hunting, gathering

Events that affect the health of the shoreline are lack of regulations for protecting storm water contaminating the marine waters

Buildup of seawalls and armoring has reduced nearshore habitat for forage fish, etc. decrease and this negatively affects salmon, birds, and other wildlife

(1) Euro-American colonization and settlement; subsequent land clearing and ecosystem destruction eventual advent of military leading to further destruction. Construction of Deception Pass bridge, trying north end to the mainland. Diking of all int, estuaries

(2) The cumulative impact of the above to serious ecosystem damage, degradation, and destruction. The estuaries are gone. The ancient forests are gone. The Northern Puget sound glacial outwash preserve to hanging on by a thread. Groundwater on central and north Whidbey is contaminated

1998– IC comprehensive plan and new zoning code

This affected all development and land use patterns for almost 20 years

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Workshop participants described not only components which enhance the quality of life in Island County, but also listed events/factors which may pose as challenges. Some mentioned preservation of historic areas while others mentioned the quiet, especially on the southern end of Whidbey Island. Participants also remarked on the sense of community, “small town atmosphere,” and volunteerism. Specifically, a few individuals mentioned the robust non-profit structure that provides much needed food, clothing, etc. to those in need.

Factors that may challenge and/or influence the quality of life included lack of job opportunities for young people, proximity to the Seattle Metro area, availability of drinking water, and percentage of vacant or short-term rental houses. A few also expressed concern that an increase in the naval presence would place an increased tax burden on remaining tax-payers. Some also mentioned improved bus system and access to internet as actions which would improve the quality of life on the islands.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Many workshop participants expressed desire for continuity of the status quo into the future. Specific examples listed include continued environmental protections, ongoing support for agricultural and rural land uses, and maintenance of sense of community and volunteerism.

Some also talked about the need for transformational changes to prepare for a de-carbonized future or embrace a climate resilience movement.

Others listed very specific actions and steps which would enable Island County to express its desired future. This tally included:

- Adopt policies to allow more growth and economic development in LAMIRDs;
- Modify state law to allow public utility option;
- Develop opportunities to increase public access and/or ownership of shorelines;
- Decrease exemptions of activities subject to forest practice permits and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA);
- Restoration of state funding available to local governments to develop long-range plans; and
- Increase coordination across local and military land-use planning.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Workshop attendees commonly described the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework in terms of providing clarity and consistency. In terms of clarity, some observed that the

planning framework delineates the roles and responsibilities of cities and counties and defines parameters for their interactions. Regarding consistency, others mentioned the planning framework provides a regional and predictable process to have complex conversations locally.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Themes that emerged during a brief conversation on elements of the growth planning framework that work well for Island County included limitations on growth, public engagement, ability for expression of local choice and values, and environmental protections. With respect to the latter, several workshop participants specifically mentioned the identification and protection of critical areas, as well as the process for developing Shoreline Master Plans.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Workshop attendees shared extensive and often specific elements of the growth planning framework which do not work well in Island County. The list below reflects topics raised by various workshop participants.

- The Growth Management Act does not provide local governments the ability to account for proximity to Seattle and appeal of Whidbey as location for second homes and vacation rentals. Some noted the need for a more regional approach which views Island County as a “green belt” for the Seattle area.
- Others also talked about how the framework has not led to the sufficient development of infrastructure and services. Specifically, individuals mentioned the lack of housing density, workforce housing options, and the existence of transportation network not conducive to reduction of the carbon footprint.
- Short platting and subdivision of rural lands has facilitated unintentional growth and development in the rural area.
- The public lacks awareness of civics, the planning process, and/or roles/responsibilities of various government entities. Others also noted the lack of early and continued public engagement in planning process.
- The Growth Management Act relies on citizen oversight, rather than state enforcement, which is not an effective means to facilitate local compliance with state law. Some also went on to talk about the outcomes of the state’s vesting law.
- The process of annexation does not include a means to keep counties whole once cities incorporate additional land.
- Many workshop attendees talked about areas among state laws and regulations of redundancy or which lack of clarity. For example, individuals noted that the goals of the Growth Management Act are not weighted-and may be at odds with one another. Others pointed to the State Environmental Policy Act, which may be redundant in areas where detailed critical area regulations have been adopted.
- The growth planning framework does not include adequate provisions to plan for and meet community needs for water, wastewater treatment, and transportation.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Many workshop participants cited the need for the growth planning framework to better address current needs for affordable housing. Specific examples included creation of incentives for regional collaboration or utilization of opportunities in tax policy.

Participants also frequently talked about the need for the planning framework to better address changing environmental conditions. Explicitly, attendees cited climate change and sea level rise and changing tidal patterns. Others talked about the need to plan for natural hazard mitigation and resiliency, particularly an earthquake which would isolate Whidbey from the mainland.

Several talked about the need to break down silos and better integrate the various components of the growth planning framework. Some talked about revising allowable uses in LAMIRDs which could open opportunities for the county to provide more housing and transportation improvements. Others talked about the need for more holistic planning and linking landscape to land-use. A few specifically suggested integrating the Forest Practices Act under the umbrella of the Growth Management Act.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

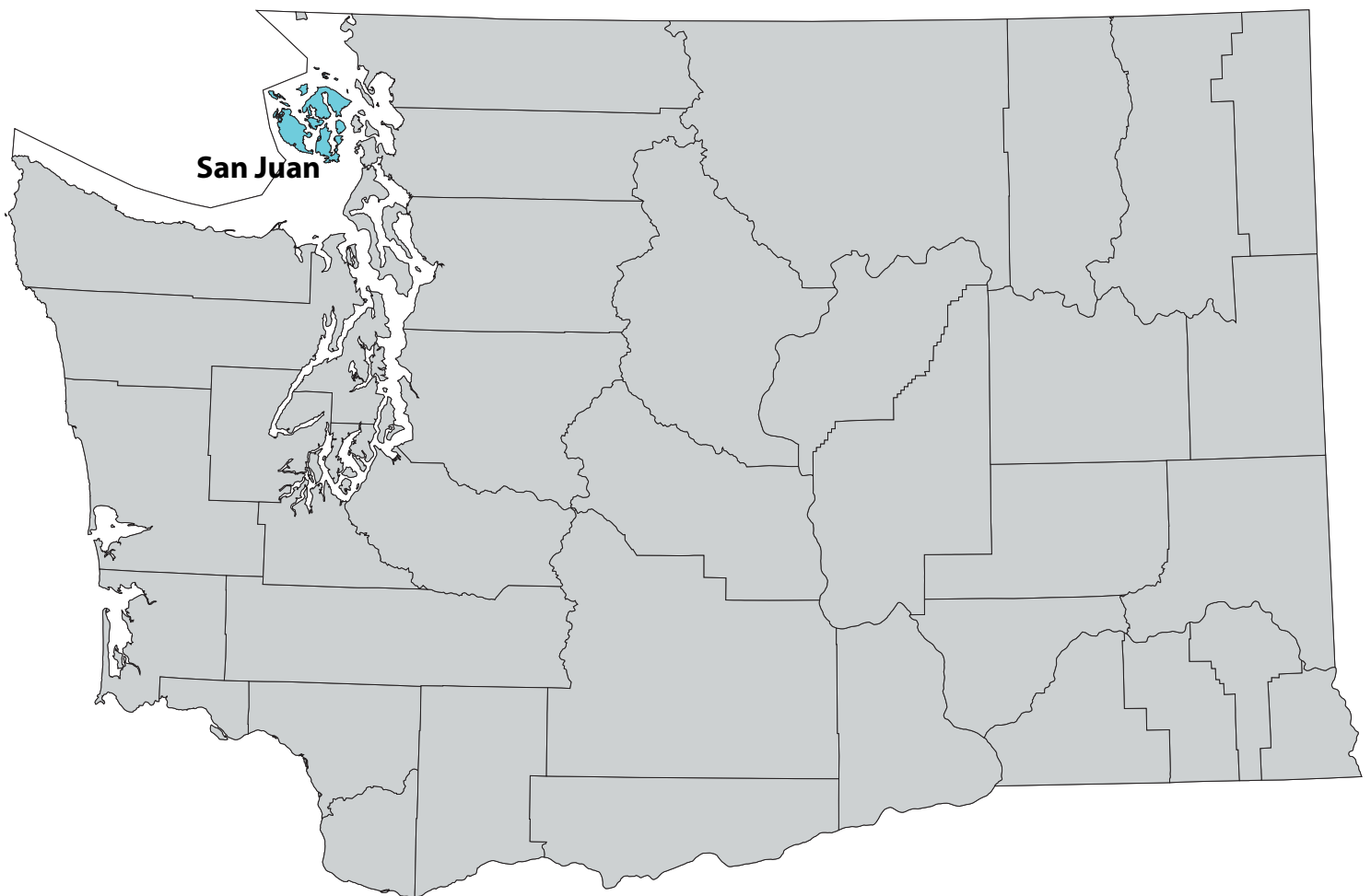
Workshop attendees variously described the purpose and value of the growth planning framework as way to prevent sprawl, concentrate growth and make utilities and mass transit more affordable and viable, or as a process to consider alternatives and trade-offs regarding many different issues.

They went on to describe very specific elements that work well in Island County. For example, the five-acre minimum density rule has helped retain the rural character. Others talked about the preservation of agricultural land, particularly from development interests, as a positive element. Repeated themes that emerged during the conversation on elements of the planning framework that do not work well included lack of flexibility, finance, and governance. Regarding flexibility, some described the statewide approach to growth management as “one-size does not fit all,” which does not match the unique needs of Island County. Some talked about finance in terms of the lack of state funding provided to local entities to conduct planning activities. Others brought up lengthy permit review periods and restrictive development regulations as factors that increase the cost of development in the County.

In terms of governance, some talked about the sheer number of state and federal entities developing policies and rules, which may be more or less applicable to a local area. Others specifically described challenges with what the Department of Ecology determined to be fish bearing streams, but locals perceive as drainage ditches with culverts. Attendees also mentioned the need for affordable housing and the relationship between economic activities in Seattle and increased pressures in other counties. In terms of the desired future, workshop attendees variously listed retention of rural character, historic preservation, environmental protection, strong community identity, and family friendly. Some noted the tension between the desire for retaining the rural character, but also wanting more “urban” things such as multi-modal transportation options and proximity to healthcare.

Elected officials identified several ways that could provide more opportunities for the public to engage and weigh in on issues of interest. Examples included distribution of surveys with water bills or yearly updates to the comprehensive plan but focused on a specific goal (instead of 6 year updates addressing all the goals).

SAN JUAN WORKSHOP



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Ferry service
- Climate changing
- Tourist interest
- Growth of population
- Cost of living rising

Past 50:

- Orcas hunted and taken into captivity
- Ending that practice (70's)
- Growth of whale watching industry and associated tourism

- Mid to Late 1800's snagging rivers of wood

1. Geographic naming of the Salish Sea
2. Influences our understanding of place, interconnectedness with entire Salish Sea ecosystem/ watershed.

Local importance: San Juan County is not part of Puget Sound

- How to handle growth
 - Preserve nature and rural aspects, but also allow for sensible development.
- Affordable housing for all.

1960's capturing orcas for aquariums

20 years ago: Proposed national marine sanctuary caused a division of opinions, but galvanized local protection efforts

1. The evolutionary impact of the San Juan Islands being "discovered" by the rest of the world

2. This continuing discovery has affected nearly every aspect of island living, accelerating the need to be clear about the many tradeoffs involved in maintaining quality of life

The Great Recession (2008)

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Pre- European arrival- low impact cultures
- Resource extraction era- lime, timber, salmon, orchards
- Economic refugees- Great Depression
- Cultural refugees – "Back to the Land"
- Second home boom – increased growth
- Great Recession- growth pause
- Economic revival- increase growth
- Decline in Marine health productivity- parallels human population growth

- Infrastructure change: ferries, electric power, fossil fuels
- Economic change: subsistence resource base -> tourism and second home
- Population change: 1870-1970 ttc SSC pop US census < 400 people
- 1979-1990 pop increase 3X
- 2018 pop 4X base year
- Community change: small rural cohesive,
- economic inequality
- gentrification
- upscale trend

Under investigation in the WSF system is now having a major impact on quality of service at a time when we have 700K visitors annually

1. Establishment of Public Lands:

- SJI National Historic Park
- SJI National Monument
- SJI National Wildlife Refuge
- State Parks, County Parks
- SJC Land Bank Preserves

2. Provide access for all to nature/ beautiful places

10 yrs.

- 2008-2012 economic crash, young families moved off the island as construction and tourism collapsed
- Money (dress up?) for schools and social services
- Air BnB impacts year round rental availability
- 2016 Broadband Internet makes telecommuting a viable way to make a living

25 yrs.

- Housing boom
- Retirement community

50 yrs.

- Fishing, Orchard and limestone mining gives way to summer homes and tourism as economic driver
- Ferry system expanded

100+ yrs.

- (Herald?) Morton State Park established

10,000 years ago a bison was butchered near obstruction pass

- Ancient Middens on the island
- Continuous human occupation by people who relied on hunting and fishing
- European settlement started by deer hunting expedition from Vancouver Island
- Land ownership treaties and formation of reservation
- Change accelerates yet there is insufficient community conversation
- Market is driving force not plan
- Paradigm struggles to change from human dominance to web of life.

- Decline in resources due to over exploitation

- Development of persistent chemicals that accumulate in the food chain

- Animals higher on the food chain are impacted more severely, (orcas)

- Destruction of the near-shore (both land and water) by human impacts

Stewardship and integration, respect and care

- Wider distribution of land creates a more diverse population, a more diverse use and better stewardship

1. Last 10 yrs.

- Fiber optics- technologies
- Global climate change – migration to NW
- Decline in salmon, orcas
- Loss of fishing industry
- I-5 corridor
- Population surge and rising land prices / (debts?)

2. Ability to work in islands via technology (e-commerce), migration to major companies, people of wealthy means, to live in safer place. Loss of natural resources, transportation by truck on I-5 rather than boats for commerce, Salt water intrusion into water supply

- Homesteading
- Overfishing (commercial)
- Subdividing land – allowed wider more diverse population

Trust gap resulting from handling of last CAO (Critical _____ Ordinance) Update process

Last 150 years development of sensitive areas:

Estuaries, floodplains, shorelines, = decline in salmon

- Housing affordability
- Housing availability
- Housing options
- Growing income inequality
- 2008 Recession

1. Population increase -> forward

2. #7 = negative impacts if environmental areas and 1 size fits all= unintended consequences

Economic recession in 2009 led to decrease in revenues for county (property and sales tax)

Regressive taxation base is quite vulnerable

- Urban growth
- Automobiles
- Electrification
- Dams

1980's Boldt decision affecting salmon harvest and fishing revenue

Trust gap undermines community confidence in policy making on vital issues and good public discussion

Key Events:

- Conurbation/ Emergence of a "Cascadia Pacific" region (Vancouver BC to Portland) this phenomena shapes/ affects the who, what, why etc. of San Juan Islands (and Canadian San Juan's)

Effects of emergent super or mega region:

- Economic systems change dramatically
- Environmental impacts
- Cultural shifts
- New values meet old ways
- Takes time to adjust

-
- Technology, .com business
 - Growth, Puget Sound, Northwest
 - Affect balance, demographics
 - Home share sites, housing
 - Communication with Native tribes, First Peoples
 - Lack of understanding/ History

Does/should impact patterns of growth, development, and population settlement, Dramatic long term economic/ sustainability implications

-
1. Increasing awareness of balance between environmental and economy
 2. Decisions must be made to balance

Sharp increase in national/ international visitor tourism (15-25 yrs to SJC)

Economic reliance overshadows environmental stewardship and conservation (i.e. water supply)

1. 100 + yrs. Pig War

- War averted
- Diplomatic resolution of international dispute
- Origin/ influenced Roberts Rules of Order

2. Sometimes does not affect the present as much as it could!

Previous Cascadia subduction zone earthquake 1700 AD

1980's Seattle named best place in US. And again, and again.

1.

A. Collapse of agriculture in 1940's (moved to Eastern WA)

B. Collapse of fisheries and timber (over fishing, over harvest, move to Alaska)

C. Marketing push for real estate sold as second homes from 1960- today

D. Marketing push for tourism 1990- today

E. Climate change (universal)

2.

A. Agriculture and timber lands become housing developments and small estates

B. Major industries are highly cyclical and generally low wage

C. Low wages plus high real estate values pushing out many workers, old families

D. Tourism is at tipping point where benefits seem outweighed by pressure of too many visitors (e.g. over crowdedness, wear and tear)

The pig war and separation of geographic/ ecosystem into 2 different nation states

- Impacts decision making for Salish Sea ecosystem

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Many workshop attendees talked about how zoning and land-use regulations affect the quality of life in San Juan County. Some spoke to the inherent exclusionary nature of subdivision covenants which require large footprint homes. Others noted the potential impact of legacy zoning—many “grandfathered” lots are much smaller than current regulations allow.

Participants then shared a varied list of actions and/or processes which would support thriving communities. Examples included:

- Need to improve voter participation and accessibility of public participatory dialogues;
- A planning framework which leads to a balance of environmental preservation, family wage jobs, and affordable housing;
- Continuity of rural character;
- Greater environmental awareness, especially regarding water quantity and quality, among both residents and visitors;
- Need to build a community and economy that is resilient to regional and global influences, as well as natural hazards;
- Need to capitalize on potential tourism revenue;
- Promote and celebrate demographic diversity; and
- Maintenance of rural character.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

In terms of the future people desire for San Juan County, many talked about the importance of safety, retention of beauty and tranquility, and the need for a strong and welcoming community. A few noted that different generations may have differing visions for the future—older generations may place more emphasis on financial security and maintaining current quality of life, while younger may focus more on consistent employment opportunities and ability to raise a family. Many expressed concerns about the pressures that a growing population could place on the natural environment, wildlife, and available drinking water supply.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Many workshop participants described the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework as a means to limit sprawl, balance development and environmental protection, concentrate growth in urban areas, and increase efficiency in infrastructure. Some also talked about the planning framework as a process for convening the public to discuss their shared future.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Attendees generated a diverse list of elements of the growth planning framework which work well for San Juan County. Topics included the designation of forest and agricultural resource lands, expression of local control, and the process to develop local plans. Some also pointed to improvements in the framework, such as increased transparency and distribution of population projections by the Office of Financial Management to local governments (rather than requiring local entities to conduct their own forecasting).

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

During the conversation on elements of the framework which do not work well, participants generated an extensive and wide-ranging list. Frequently mentioned themes include complexity, limited scope, lack of oversight and implementation, incompatibility with the uniqueness of place, and the disconnect across jurisdictions. In terms of complexity, some posited that simpler regulations may lead to desired outcomes more effectively. Some felt that the Growth Management Act focuses primarily on land-use and transportation, with limited components on economy, education, and community. Others mentioned that the growth planning framework's environmental protections specifically limit development on shores. With respect to oversight, some noted the adversarial nature of the appeals process and described the difficulty reaching win-win solutions. A few suggested that the state could have more oversight of local decision-making. Many shared that while the state compels planning, implementation and enforcement are not required, nor funded. Regarding uniqueness of place, several stated that "one-size does not fit all." Specifically, the Growth Management Act does not account for the varied needs and circumstances of rural counties. As to the disconnect across jurisdictions, some talked about differing requirements and exemptions to planning under the parameters of the Growth Management Act. For example, state agencies have an exemption.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Frequently, workshop participants talked about the need to better understand the human carrying capacity of the islands and to make land-use decisions accordingly. Some talked about the need for modeling to determine carry-capacity, while others thought clearly defined carrying capacities could direct future growth to areas able to accommodate it. A few talked about limitations to water quantity and availability, suggesting that a "one-bathroom" standard could help reduce water consumption.

Other factors and situations listed by attendees included the amount of housing which sits vacant for much of the year due to the high transient population. A few talked about the need for a tax structure that encourages smaller and more efficient homes, addresses the growing income disparity, and better funds and supports the outcomes envisioned in local plans.

Attendees also mentioned a desire for state funded financial incentives to promote sustainable growth. Some participants mentioned a desire for increased flexibility or ability for to meet unique local needs; others suggested having a smoother appeal process that would allow for more frequent exemptions when backed up with evidence. Attendees also expressed a desire for stronger enforcement mechanisms.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

A workshop for elected officials was scheduled, then cancelled due to lack of participants. Elected officials in San Juan County had opportunities to participate in a workshop held in conjunction with an annual meeting for Washington State Association Counties and for Washington Association of Cities. Elected officials also received links to the online questionnaire.

CLALLAM & JEFFERSON WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

Olympic Discovery Trail
Creation, ongoing 2000 ->
today

1938(ish) Olympic National
Park Created

Boldt Decision 1974

Hospital Growth 2008

1997 Salmon Listings under
ESA

2013 Dungeness
Water Resource Rule

Vote of citizens in Port
Townsend to forbid big-box
stores in our community

These Acts have determined
prescribed limits on growth,
aimed at preserving the
heritage and intimacy of our
community.

The consequence of this, in
times of economic growth, is
an over-supply of demand
and scarcity of supply,
resulting in heightened
pressures on low income
populations and native-
resident communities

Potential railroad terminus
in Port Townsend, WA
in 1890s. Led to major
development beyond future
demands

Townsend as an "arts
community"

Extraction industries
devasted fish populations and
forests

Part of our economy is driver
by people who live here but
do not work here. Retired or
work commute.

Big Box developments in
Sequim area

Establishment of ONP
and Miller Peninsula Park

The Olympic Peninsula has
not recovered the negative
economic impacts.

Tech boom on I-5 corridor

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Beginning of agriculture as
primary economy

State parks created Hoko
River State Park

When Olympic County was
divided

- Railroad Decision
- Military Decisions
 - Fort Worden/Flages/
Casey
 - Fort Townsend
 - Indian Island
- State Ferry/Hood Canal
Bridge
- Environmental Decisions

Forest & Fish Rule

1850's: 1 degree
permanent European
settlements in now Clallam
county

Vote of city council in PT
to forbid private rental
of A.D.V.S. for overnight
tourist accommodation

Key Events:

- Isolation: provided time
for slow growth
- Olympic National Park
creation
- Abundant natural
resources
- Physical challenges invited
tough, hardy, inventive
people to settle here

10 years= Elwha dam
removal affecting 101 Elwha
bridge and city water supply
25 years= endangered species
act listing of spotted owl
dramatically impacting jobs
and our economy
50 years= US social changes
forever changed the way we
live

10: reduced steelhead/
salmon stocks -lost jobs
-population shifts
25: overharvest of Timber,
Lost Jobs, poor transition
-establishing ONP coastal
area

50: Olympic National Park
(100+) Irrigation developed
for Dungeness valley prairie

"cara" risks due to inadequate zoning protection & especially impervious surfaces

100+: lots of mill pollution along shoreline

25: Environmental consciousness grew, cleaner air, water, soil and increased wildlife protection as well as towards tourist-oriented and planning of festivals and organic food grown locally

Water rule-limits growth

1855 Point No Point Treaty signing

Stevens treaties, Boldt Decision (US v. WA) Treaty rights, co-managers of the resource

Loss of resource-based economy, communities continue to struggle with this change

We live in a beautiful place – opportunity to embrace economically

Water rights – P.T. water secure

Restoration of Elwha river, benefits if we embrace them

Rural places have tougher time economically than urban places

We need to work together to get things done

Changing workforce – need for new workforce skill development

Challenges in encouraging development in an environmental critical area

In the last 10 years, the economy has largely rebounded from the great recession.

How this has affected our area is our rural communities, households, and citizens do not get to enjoy improved quality of life because rural economic redevelopment is not empowered

Layers of red tape/paperwork to allow development (Housing, Industry, etc.)

Settlement by non-native groups

relationships between government and tribes

Storm water regulations impact development

NPS dam removal – uncertainty around water

Growth in Area spreading out and population

Need for more housing and transportation

Recession:
• econ disruption
• loss of jobs
• recovery unknowns

Demographic shifts
• increased health care needs
• change in economic development culture

Affordability

Olympic National Park

10+ development of and use of telecom network
• work from anywhere opportunities
• virtual education "resilannnt k-99"

25+ PNW forest plan
• massive economic and potential shifts continues to impact our economic sector

50+ development + push as PenCol
• opportunity for relatively place bound populations to obtain technical and transitional education

100+ Spruce railroad "opening up west end"

Continuing growth need to have closer medical specialist

1: lack of employment
2: control over development affecting employment opportunities and housing prices

Mill closures– lack of jobs and downturn in forestry

Olympic discovery trail • multi model Hwy 101 improvements

Growth board decisions
• improved rural lands downzone

Water rule-limits growth

Marijuana legal – zoning changes

Restoration of natural resources – Dungeness river

–80% of Jefferson county land in public ownership
–reduction in developable lands

Transition to tourist & people focused economy
-transition from resource based economy (forestry, etc) to tourism/retirees

Late 1960s – Sequim promoted as a retirement community

Transportation
-Hood canal bridge
-Ferries
-Sense of limited transportation network (eg. No rail or air) or redundant systems

Construction of Hood Canal Bridge gave easy access to east/north Olympic Peninsula

Shift in jobs away from timber/shipping/fishing – move to more mechanization and larger ships

Railroad: provided alternative transportation mode – short lived! / PT partially developed in anticipation of railroad

Irrigation Canals: brought water throughout Sequim Dungeness valley and lead to the proliferation of agriculture

Establishment of “black ball transportation ...” : provided water Up and down coast and Canada, helped open up tourism industry

Previously platted lots of record
-unused rows = trail system
-platting often problematic

Water rights P.T. water secure

Military Historic Presence
-Fort Worden Park

Victorian Boom
-Historic Downtown assets

City incorporation, only 1 in Jefferson County
-county seat

Economic and cultural center

Clallam County: Aging population, influx of retirees

Decline in extractive economics (logging, fishing)

Increase in 1-5 population pushing some people to more rural areas

Closing of a few large employers in PA

1895: 1st irrigation ditch in sequim

ESA spotted owl and marbled murrelet

Local food movement

Point no Point Treaty

Founding of the Port Townsend Food Co-op in 1972

Shift down of ferry service
-econ. Disruption
-open peoples eyes to need for resilience

Tribes

2018 expansion in central Port Townsend location, 6500+ active members

1992 opening of the refurbished rose theatre in port Townsend

2000 first port Townsend film festival

Timber Industry
-resource extraction
-effects on landscape

In migration in late 1800s
-change in culture
-expectations
-course of future

High cost of housing (lack of affordable)

Acresage in forest lands

Instream Flow Rule

Internet (high speed in some areas)

Creation and construction of Fort Warden 1904 and its transformation into a center for arts and learning

Olympic National Park establishment
Affect = too many tourists using too much fossil fuel to enjoy the ONP

Declining resource and jobs: community impacts
-closing of the mills
-reopening of the elwha
-development of the ODT
-departure of the railroad/way
-lack of local support of school board measures

Forks Fire

1972 state park/centrum
Port Townsend:

100 years ago: resource-
based economy (fish and
timber)

50 years ago: WWII, fort
warden and conversation to
a state park

25 years ago: historic
preservation movement and
focus on walkable/bikeable
communities

10 years ago: local
movement, local food,
local fuel, local economy
movements
Need more healthy youth
activities

Sequim Bypass 1999
1997 – Rayonier Mill
Closure in port Angeles

a) timber accords dramatic
decrease in local economic
engines (export of people and
ideas)

b) 4-lane Sequim to
port Angeles significant
interconnection of people to
jobs

c) Puget sound restoration
program regional agreement
that resource improvement is
critical to regions future

d) WRIA 18 changing the
way we view and exploit
natural resources from
individual to multiple benefits
for multiple and points

1. Independence from urban
regulations
 2. Self sufficiency
 3. spotted owl
 4. GMA
-

Const. of Carlsborg sewer
growth, population West End
decreased, tourism increased

Trespass & colonization of
tribal territories resulting in
large scale industrialization and
exploitation of natural resources

1. Availability of cheap,
abundant fossil fuels

2. GMA and related resource
management acts

East End Growth– character
change

Boom in vacation rental
properties contributing to
shortage of affordable housing
and resulting in dissolution of
communities

Boldt Decision

2014 fort warden PDA

European Settlement

19070s-80s mechanization in
forest industry.

National environment policy act
(NEPA)

NPDES

Establishment of Olympic
National Park/Forest

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Some workshop participants articulated valuing a close community. Others expressed an appreciation for the rural character of the region. Some mentioned they see this value embodied through community ownership of trails and parks, reducing waste outputs, organic farms, and expanding local food production. Some identified a need for long term sustainable growth, particularly with regards to increasing the amount of young people in the area. Others discussed how one size fits all regulations tend not to work well for rural communities.

When discussing what is needed to thrive, participants spoke about needing broadband internet, infrastructure improvements regarding roads, bike lanes and sidewalks, and to balance economic growth with open space and clean air. Some expressed a desire for increased transportation services and transit options. Others touched on a need for affordable housing in urban areas; some added that affordable housing is also needed outside urban areas. Some mentioned a need to combat food deserts. Others talked about needing jobs for the younger generation to be able to stay in their communities, creating natural resource jobs for students, and the desire for economic development to come from encouraging growth within the region, rather than attracting outside companies to the region. Some described the need for better quality health care, health insurance options, and a need for affordable childcare. And a number of participants talked about the importance of having a healthy environment, eliminating invasive species, addressing climate change impacts such as ocean acidification, and being prepared for hazard events such as a Cascadia earthquake.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

When talking about what people desire for the future, participants talked about having access to higher paying and family wage jobs, a local economy and jobs that support families and multigenerational communities, increased availability and affordability of childcare, and good schools. Many participants desired a future where the environment was protected and better cared for and that impacts of climate change and land and ocean degradation were addressed, and financial incentives for environmental protection were increased. Some participants expressed a desire for better water quality and improved water and sewer infrastructure.

Some talked about needing to focus on policy impacts, such as differences in policy approaches for urban and rural counties. Also mentioned was needing a review of comprehensive impacts of growth planning regulations on small and rural areas. Others talked about needing increased efficiency and transparency of government agency decisions and actions and of local permitting processes. Others hoped for more participation from the community in local government and public engagement in local decision-making. Some said they hope that developers increased their financial contributions to infrastructure costs.

Also discussed was a desire for the rest of the state to better understand the unique social and ecological circumstances of living on the coast. Including how coastal communities need flexibility to ensure they can be resilient and meet community needs such as housing, health care, safety, and economic stability.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants said there was value in the growth planning framework's process of defining and managing growth in a way that helps keep infrastructure costs down. Others saw value in preventing urban sprawl and the protection of critical areas and agriculture and natural resource lands. Participants also talked about the value of having a planning process that allows for developing a plan that looks at and tries to address long term needs of future populations.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Some participants mentioned the role of ensuring cities and counties coordinate regarding demographics. Others expressed the value of appropriate land designations to preserve agricultural production and prevent urban sprawl in Jefferson County. Some attendees articulated that inclusion of diverse populations is beneficial and talked about how there are work groups made up of community members that volunteer their time to be a part of growth planning and help create plans. Also mentioned was how the city of Forks created an affordable housing plan that is one page of focused objectives, as opposed to a multiple page document that is difficult for the community to read, understand, and want to implement.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants spoke about a variety of issues and concerns with the current growth planning framework, including:

- Circumstances regarding growth in rural and urban cities and counties are not the same. A one size fits all approach to growth planning in the state is not working. One suggestion was to have a rural GMA and urban GMA with similar components but that would allow for flexibility to address unique needs of rural and urban communities and how not all UGAs are the same. A number of participants talked about how what may work well for King County when planning for growth does not work well for Jefferson or Clallam Counties.
- Lack of public understanding about growth planning. Better information that is clear, less lengthy, and understandable is needed when it comes to communicating about growth planning and what is in a comprehensive plan.
- Small cities and counties don't have the staff and revenue capacity to develop much less implement plans or to update plans. More flexibility is needed with the update cycle, especially for places where there has not been growth or are seeing decreasing growth over the last ten years.
- The framework does not self assess or quantify positive impacts.
- Time inefficiency excludes some community members from engaging in the permitting process.
- The annexation process does not work. It has resulted in cities and counties having to compete for resources.
- Need more flexibility in the framework to allow for sustainable growth in LAMIRDS. One example was given of a LAMIRD in Jefferson County that has failing septic system but are unable to

address the issue.

- The current framework does not adequately address septic and storm water infrastructure. The NPDES permitting process was also mentioned as not working well. Addressing sea level rise and ocean acidification was also mentioned as needed.
 - SEPA process needs to be looked at for where there are redundancies with other laws.
 - Phase 2 of GMA funding was never provided by the State. GMA planning and implementation is an unfunded mandate.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Participants reiterated concerns about unfunded mandates, annexation issues, and inequity of revenue available to urban vs. rural areas to cover the cost of GMA planning and updates. Others raised concerns about the lack of webinars and online trainings, since many small cities and counties don't have the resources to send staff to trainings or to annual gatherings of the Association of Cities and Association of Counties. Some said linking growth planning to transportation planning and to health is missing. Additional responses about what is missing from the current framework provided by participants included:

- The current framework limits local creativity in policy design.
- Monitoring and evaluation and the funding to do so is missing in GMA.
- Economic justice is a missing element.
- The constant threat of appeals limits the ability to be creative and take risks that may allow for better addressing GMA goals.
- Adaptive management is missing from the growth planning framework.
- Climate change and emergency management are missing and not addressed in growth planning.
- Prioritization of the GMA goals
- State technical assistance and support is limited. Interlocal agreements for sharing staff and technical expertise, similar to conservation districts model is needed.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials described the growth planning framework as a tool for gathering information to coordinate diverse local plans at an integrated scale. Others described the framework as a tool to balance the environmental and economic needs of various communities. Some touched on the framework's efforts to prevent further urban sprawl. Some elected officials articulated that the value of the growth planning framework is found in coordination efforts at regional scales that takes advantage of local assets. Others described the framework's benefits for ensuring that infrastructure needs are met with investments that promote a variety of community designs. Some discussed the value of the framework's efforts to ensure rural communities benefit from, rather than encroach on, a healthy environment and natural resource lands.

When asked about what is working well in the current growth planning framework, elected officials talked about how growth planning is now more participatory and better reflects community desires. They talked about how critical areas are better protected, urban sprawl has been reduced, and how

growth planning is better coordinated across jurisdictions. Some talked about how it has been beneficial to have a clearly outlined plan for long term growth and how it allows for direct public input so that governments are better able to make decisions that reflect community desires, which reduces litigation. Some mentioned the benefits of increasing public outreach online or by going to community hubs.

With regard to what is not working well, elected officials expressed concerns regarding clarity of rules between geographically close and similar regions, hindering growth in rural areas, increasing urban cost of housing, going against community desires with regards to density, cost to smaller communities, and the lack of funding and capacity for growth planning and implementation. Sewer and septic constraints were also discussed and how the GMA prohibition against community septic systems prevents lower cost and potentially just as effective ways to deal with solid waste. Additional comments included:

- Pushing densities into the urban areas increases the cost of housing.
- City residents don't want high density development even though that is the goal of GMA.
- It is expensive to create comprehensive plans, Shoreline Management Plans and critical area ordinances and many small jurisdictions don't have the revenue to meet the immediate needs of their communities, such as police and addressing the opioid crisis, much less afford to develop plans. In addition, the cost of defending against appeals is overwhelming for counties.
- Gaps in infrastructure funding has made it difficult for smaller cities to attract businesses. One idea offered was to allow businesses to be eligible to apply for Public Works Trust Funding.
- Requirement to provide sewer systems to support larger commercial development makes it difficult if not impossible to attract business because of the high cost to build sewer systems.
- NPDES stormwater requirements impose very expensive requirements on new development and what is needed is new funding mechanisms to address stormwater requirements.
- Airbnb and short term vacation rentals has limited the available housing stock.
- Limited amount of water availability and lack of water planning is an issue that needs to be addressed.

When looking towards the future, elected officials articulated the importance of balancing the need for quality service for retirees with the younger generation. Many talked about needing family wage jobs and greater economic opportunities to help reduce the need to work multiple low paying jobs. Affordable housing was also talked about and the need for housing options that support all stages of life, from families to seniors. Others talked about needing quality education and access to higher education, trade and technical education.

When talking about public engagement, elected officials talked about the importance of going out to where people are, such as churches, farmers markets, and grocery stores, as opposed to expecting the public to come to them. Social media, weekly coffee with the mayor at a local coffee shop, and visiting K-12 schools were mentioned as successful ways to engage the public.

GRAYS HARBOR & PACIFIC WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Loss of fishing agricultural aquaculture economy due to regulatory environment as well as some natural causes along with GROWTH in tourism
- Economic diversity
- Very strong lack of housing at every level
- Low wage jobs
- Many external influences
- Aging population base

Completion of Astoria / meglar bridge (1960) fundamental impact on retail, healthcare, tourism and locally-supported businesses

Geological vulnerability:
Tsunamis at Cascadia subduction zone last was in 1700

Weather : rising intensity of storms 1962, 2007, 2009
Historic suppression of indigenous tribes

100 + years ago
“where rails meets sails!”

Speculative boom followed by nearly 100 years of sustainable economy UNTIL spotted owl debacle

Diminished economy not sustainable community dysfunction

Pacific county

- Essentially settled by water, nearing a dozen small port towns
- Geographies natural isolation results in
- No deep water ports
- No heavy rail
- No freeways
- No gaslines /natural gas, etc.
- Fringe communications

Result: dominated by outstanding natural resources and respect thereof

Dams on Columbia river altered nearshore and estuary ecology on south coast

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Pacific county:

- Coastal community – natural resources
- Changes in local workforce / economy
- Investments made by private and public sector
- Demographic changes – age
- Representation in state / national government – rural issues

Completion of Astoria / meglar bridge (1960) fundamental impact on retail, healthcare, tourism and locally-supported businesses

- Increased severity and rate of severe storms
- Bust of extraction based economy
- Continued declines in natural ecosystems
- Continued declines in natural ecosystems
- Continued expansion of infrastructure into critical / sensitive areas
- Continued trickle down of responsibilities to local entities with no additional resources
- Lots and lots of planning with minimal implementation

Dams also brought clean electricity to region

Shift from water transport to vehicles divided county into north and south sections

Oysters, fish, and timber are still major economic drivers of local economy and was first drivers as well.

We need to ensure these continue to be sustainable going forward

Updating our shoreline master program

Having enhanced dredging of our small ports

Community discussions about the future of fossil fuel infrastructure in the region

Discussions around community owned forests and the future of forestry jobs

Emergency management and state infrastructure in the face of a potential massive earthquake

Growing fish hatchery industry

25 years

- Climate change
- Severe storms (el ninos)
- Erosion

Failure of our state and federal agencies to fix the problems adequately

We question our ability to go forth as a resilient community

Inability to continue to use carbaryl versus ghost-shrimp threaten shellfish industry

1895 Bush and Callow Act Allowed Washington marine lands to be sold for shellfish cultivation

- Only state in the nation to do this
 - Resulted in much ecological and economical sustainability Model for all other states
-

Bold decision

Caused much conflict on fishing issues that have constantly hurt southwest Washington

- Spotted owl, marbled murrelet
- Cargo diversification at the port

Forever changed timber and related industries throughout the 2 counties

We continue to struggle to attract industries that can provide quality, family wage jobs

Chinook people – regional trading area, summer fish camps

1600 Studson bay co- trade with “white” people – euro

1700 Euro. Exploration: gray ihears(?), de fuca, etc. East Coast

1805 Lewis and Clark expedition

1700s Big tsunami

1850 oysters – oysterville

1880-90s logging / timber

1880 – tourism: clamshell (?) RR

1880-1890 Salmon fishing traps, canning, canneries

1980- salmon fishing management /regulation

1930- highway in from north

10 years- doe shrimp permit denied, 18.7% unemployment rate

25 years – futurewise lawsuit (outside intervention)

50 years – GMA -SMP creation (SMP changed from original in 1970 which was good)

State regulatory system growing into monster

100 years – natural resource industries become viable and vibrant

- Chinook Treaty
 - Filibuster
 - Executive order
 - Flood of immigrants
 - Racism
 - Murder
 - Disease
 - Legal quandaries
-

Tsunami

Treaty of olympia

- Logs mills, no logs and closed mills
 - Port redefined itself to bring in grain and auto, as well as another business park
 - Fluctuating fishery activities
 - Erosion
 - Tourism
-

Key event

- Decline in stop ctap (?) price in cranberry in 1999/2000 and 2014-2017
 - The loss of the permit to control burrowing populations in Willapa
 - The wind storm 2007
 - The transfer of WSU long beach research and extension unit to pacific coast cranberry research foundation
 - Coastal erosion -washaway beach
-
- Storm of December 2007
 - Self-reliance
 - Preparedness
-

Futurewise litigation with county re GMA led to inability to locally-optimize land use decisions

Key events shaping pacific county

- Economy historically natural resource based logging, fishing, cranberries, dairy
 - Bad WDFW policy-change and destruction of toutle river coho
 - Dam building with inadequate salmon mitigation
 - Past hatchery mitigation included JOBS for coast, people are now left out. Example : 1975 trollers sold 20 million \$ last year 200,000
 - Parts constructed based on commercial fishing. Gillnet Genocide is KILLING coastal economy
-

Events that define region

10 years

- great recession – redefined how vulnerable we are to economic and cultural boom and bust

2007 storm

2009 storm

- Lack of funding for everything
- Sea level rise
- Climate change

1962 columbus day storm

- Poor / past logging practices
 - Poverty level
 - DOE denying spraying for ghost shrimp (2018)
 - Increased state and federal regulations
 - Ocean acidification
-

Recognition that tsunami risk is existential threat to community (~200's)

1980s-200s

- Transitions in timberland ownership to fewer and bigger organizations largely based outside of southwest Washington
- Ability to create and capture wealth locally is reduced
- Decisions about important and land values made for far away investors and not for local community values

100 years and strong economic growth from working forests fishing and other industries

- Spotted owl and companion impacts

Recent:

- Grays harbor 2020
 - Tourism
 - Washington coast works biz competition
-

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Ruckelshaus Center facilitators asked workshop participants to what types of things influence the quality of life and what is needed for people to thrive in their communities. Participants frequently mentioned community/regional values, such as having a strong sense of community, collaboration, the peaceful, quiet, and private way of life that living on the coast can provide, and an incredible natural environment.

Participants talked about limited access to healthcare, infrastructure and transportation needs, and lack of economic opportunities, as types of things that influence the quality of life. Several also talked about the negative impacts of various state and federal regulations—specifically the burden of unfunded state mandates on under resourced local governments, regulations impacting forestry, shellfish and salmon industries, and Endangered Species Act listings on the local economies.

With respect to resources or things needed to facilitate thriving communities, participants shared wide-ranging and specific elements. Specific needs include:

- Family wage jobs;
- Access to technology and communications, including cell-service and high-speed internet;
- Infrastructure to support an aging population;
- Workforce housing;
- Access to healthcare and community wellness;
- Thriving natural environment balanced with thriving industries, including more salmon and crab;
- Skill-building or workforce training programs to enable young people to stay in the region.
- Access to good paying jobs that would allow young people and families to be able to live and stay.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

In terms of the desired future, many participants described some aspect of this sentiment: the aspiration to find a balance between environmental protections and economic growth. Some talked about the ability for their kids to have stable and sufficient incomes that would allow them stay in the community. Others specifically described the current challenges facing those in a natural resource-based industry, and how, given those conditions, they could encourage their kids to take over the business. A few talked about the need to enhance and sustain existing natural resource industries, while others talked about the need for deliberate and sustainable economic growth (and avoid growth for the sake of growth).

Participants also describe a desired future which includes recreational opportunities, more opportunities for self-determination and decision-making (such as the Shoreline Master Plan), access to adequate healthcare and childcare, increased emergency preparedness and overall safety, and programs or resources to support local businesses. Others described the need for workforce development and training programs to help recruit and retain employees who already live in the community. Some also mentioned the need for immigration reform and the affect that current policies have had on the local community and workforce, specifically recent deportations.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Some participants described the purpose of the growth planning framework as providing consistency, both in terms of enforcement and protection of natural resources. Others talked about the value of the Shoreline Master Plan, both the process and the product, which helped communities to think about the use and stewardship of the shoreline and how the coast is an asset to the entire state.

Many participants questioned the purpose and/or value of the current growth planning framework. Some noted that the principles of the framework are admirable in essence, but don't always seem applicable in rural areas and/or places with declining population growth. A few noted that Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties face many of the same challenges, yet only one county opted to plan under the Growth Management Act.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

With respect to the overall amalgamation of growth planning laws and policies, some felt that the existing regulations provide a starting point and guidance to communities in the planning process. A few felt that the current state is a better alternative than no policies directing planning. Others shared that communities with comprehensive plans can more effectively apply for economic development grants.

Workshop participants also described elements of the Housing Act, the Voluntary Stewardship Program, and the Shoreline Management Act which have worked well on the Coast. With respect to the Housing Act, some noted that the sales tax exemptions on building materials and fee forgiveness programs work well but could be expanded so that housing authorities could increase their ability to provide affordable housing options. In terms of the Voluntary Stewardship Program, a few participants noted that the program recognized the legacy and knowledge of the agricultural industry, while others appreciated the incentive-based, rather than regulatory approach. Others pointed to the value of state oversight and backing, if a locally-developed plan is challenged. According to some participants, the Voluntary Stewardship Program could serve as a model for statewide planning, while also allowing the local communities to develop the details. With regards to the Shoreline Management Act, some participants felt that the locally developed and written plan worked well for the region, especially because funding and technical support was provided, while others pointed to the Act's vital role in protecting shorelines.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Workshop participants listed an array of parts of the growth planning framework which do not work well. Themes which emerged during that conversation include: funding and implementation, capacity, enforcement, and scale.

Funding & Implementation: Many workshop participants expressed frustration regarding either the lack of funding available for planning and implementation or the process and mechanisms by which funding is allocated. Specifically, some talked about the lack of long-term funding, which may only support a phase of a project or necessitate the use of an outside consultant, rather than facilitate the hiring and training of a person who lived and worked locally. Others shared that, even in counties that did not opt-in to the Growth Management Act, many planning elements may still be required to qualify for funding. A few also mentioned the amount of shoreline does not correlate with amount of resources made available in which to develop a Shoreline Management Plan.

Capacity: Several workshop participants shared that planning processes place a significant burden on small communities, which may only have one county administrator available or need to rely on volunteers to execute the update. A few also noted the lack of state support, not just financial but also in terms of providing technical advice and guidance.

Enforcement: Many workshop participants talked about the unequal enforcement of the goals within the Growth Management Act due to activist interest in a particular goal or goals. Some described the significant financial resources required to respond to a lawsuit as devastating to a community, while others noted that the fear of a lawsuit may lead to risk averse actions in other areas. Participants also talked about needing more voluntary incentive based approaches instead of compounding regulations.

Scale: In terms of scale, some workshop participants described a misalignment between the broad, statewide policies and the unique geologic and geographic conditions present in coastal counties. Others talked about the need for planning under the Growth Management Act to occur coastwide, not just county-by-county. In terms of the State Environmental Policy Act, some noted that the focus on a species detracts from the programs ability to respond at the ecosystem level.

Additional comments made by workshop participants include challenges associated with legacy infrastructure and maintaining rural character.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Workshop participants developed a diverse list of elements missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework. Some also included suggestions as to how those may be better addressed or integrated. Comments shared by participants included:

- Need for highspeed internet to be viewed as critical infrastructure - a basic and affordable utility;
- Current affordable housing policies need to be updated to address current circumstances and the homelessness crisis;
- Need to streamline onerous permitting processes;
- Need for better linkage between emergency management/hazard preparedness and the Growth Management Act; and
- Need for climate modeling based on future climate projections, rather than historic data.

Many workshop participants also talked about the disconnect between state and regional entities on the local community. Specifically, several talked about lack of influence on decisions made in other states or at the federal level which may directly affect the coastal counties. Others pointed to the popularity of the beaches and the amount of garbage left by visitors and the lack of resources available to provide recreation opportunities for visitors from across the state and region.

According to some participants, the growth planning framework and local planning processes need to better involve and engage with high school and college students, especially in rural communities. A few suggested that Future Farmers of America could be a partner for engaging with the next generation of farmers.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Some elected officials described the purpose and value of the growth planning framework as a process for controlling growth or protecting environmental assets; others described its role in reducing sprawl. A few mentioned the value of facilitating the locations and proximities of different industries. In terms of

elements of the framework which work well, participants listed historic preservation, natural resource protection (in some cases), and the Shoreline Master Plan. With respect to elements not working well, common themes included capacity/revenue, housing, economic opportunity, and oversight.

Capacity: Many participants described the growth planning framework as an unfunded mandate or onerous process, particularly for rural counties. Others expressed frustration that small counties, or counties with no growth, must rely on volunteers to follow the same planning process as large counties with dedicated planning staff. A few noted that the framework doesn't adequately meet the funding needs of local schools; while others noted that the region is not benefiting from marijuana taxes. Some participants noted that while Grays Harbor County did not opt-into the Growth Management Act, the county still must have a comprehensive plan to compete for state funding.

Housing: Some talked about the high number of people experiencing homelessness and the lack of areas zoned to allow short-term camping, as well as the lack of resources to support shelter programs. Others described the lack of adequate and affordable housing, including workforce housing, due in part to short-term vacation rentals. The lack of workforce housing specifically creates challenges for employers seeking to make hires for tourism season.

Economic opportunity: Many participants talked about the lingering effects of the Great Recession. Others described challenges facing natural resource industries (shellfish, fishing, timber) and expressed frustration with the attention and resources directed at species protection, such as orcas, rather than towards supporting the commercial industries. A few talked about the lack of broadband and the resulting loss of educational and economic opportunities.

Oversight: Some described frustration in receiving lack of clarity or guidance from agencies yet having community plans/visions denied. Others talked about the large presence of certain interests, such as environmental groups, in volunteerism and litigation.

In terms of a desired future for Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties, many of the same themes and values emerged as in the multi-sector workshop: living wage jobs, thriving economy and environment, affordable housing, emergency preparedness, infrastructure needs, and accessible healthcare.

Elected officials noted challenges regarding public engagement, specifically regarding the limited distribution and reach of the newspaper.

WAHKIAKUM & COWLITZ WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

1980 Eruption of Mt. St. Helens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ferry across Columbia Puget island Astoria (before bridge) Fishing Elk hoof rot Isolation of county / road in / out Logging (mill GP across Columbia) 	2016 tribe gets its reservation land affirmed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eruption of Mt. St. Helens Siltation of rivers Decline of forestry / natural resource-based economy Columbia river deepening 		1950 Cowlitz tribe adopts its constitutional form of government
1923 Establishment of City of Longview	1989 Governor's centennial accord with tribes	2016 Tribe opens casino
Mt. St. Helens eruption (lawetlat'la) 1980	Kitzaber plan	
Construction of interstate 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> no lower river fishery – commercial – <5 years 	2000/2002 Formal federal recognition as a government by u.s.

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Extension –WSU as land grant university established in Wahkiakum in 1912	1906 formal relationship with us government affirmed with Cowlitz tribe	Economic impacts: wahkiakum 100 the county was growing Fishing salmon
SR4 connecting towns by highway 50+years		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forestry wood extraction Agriculture
Environmentalism (1960-1990)	2000 decline in good blue-collar jobs. Increase in unemployment decline in health	40 years ago – loss of fishing and reduction in logging
Climate Change (1990-2000+ now)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precontact and early settlement Cowlitz control trade along the Cowlitz corridor 	25- Boldt decision 15 marble marlet – reduced timber industry
The coming of age of millennials and the new economy		The domination of the automobile
Mount st. helens eruption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheap fuel Bedroom communities 	Regulation of salmon harvest and habitat

Columbia river channel deepening

- Fossil fuel export
- Proposals (first major proposal bradwood landing LNG export, early 2000s)

- Change from river transport to highway
- Dams arriving upstream killing fishery on Columbia
- Urbanization elsewhere drawing retail and trades away
- Endangered species act tying up huge tracts of land
- Arrival of slow speed internet

- Methamphetamine
- No local medical care
- Urban cost structure meets rural wages – sewer plant costs
- River as freight route by-passing small towns (dredging)
- Dairy farm rules killing small farms vs. e. wa mega dairies

Increase in wildfire and beetlekill threat

Increased shipping on the Columbia due to globalism

Immigration (long term changes)

Today in Wahkiakum:
Our economy is sluggish -we are barely growing

1980 mt. st. helens eruption
80-90s industrial / logging industry closure

1910-1920 parts inception

2010 cowlitz tribe recognition

- Mt. st. helens
- Timber industry downsized
- Loss of industry (mills)

- Decimation of native american tribes by introducing pandemics
- Establishment of European communities with farming and commercial fishing
- Extensive logging of native timber
- Drastic reduction of native salmon
- Damming of the Columbia river
- Loss of timber jobs / unions
- Recession of 2008
- Global warming and impacts on native species

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

When discussing values, influences, and needs, participants discussed a desire for more economic activity. Low cost of living, poverty, and lack of living wage jobs were seen as stifling the potential for economic growth. Others raised concerns with the dependency on outside supplies and government assistance and a desire to be able to independently support community needs. Participants talked about needing more local food and shopping options to reduce having to drive long distances to other cities and counties to access a grocery store. Participants from Wahkiakum talked about needing more eateries and places for community to gather and how their only hamburger stand had just closed. Some talked about how the Cowlitz Tribe is taking care of the water, fish, timber, and community prosperity.

Participants also identified environmental components that influence the community. According to some participants, about 93% of the region's land produces timber, leaving only 7% for other uses. Others expressed a desire for a more robust river preservation strategy for wildlife conservation and local commerce. Many spoke about their love for the river and how it is important for fish, jobs, and livelihoods.

Participants discussed the value of community identity, including the strong sense of belonging and connectedness in the region. Others voiced a need for the community to embrace more diversity. Others talked about their love for the environment and low cost of living but how there are limited job opportunities, high poverty, and no resources to provide drug and substance abuse services. Some also shared that the local community lacks a positive outlook for the future. Some attendees also mentioned a lack of foresight among political leadership. Other needs mentioned was a desire for repairing and managing public infrastructure.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Participants articulated a variety of values and desires for the future, mostly concerning personal freedoms, growing the local economy, and creating a opportunities for their community to be able to work, afford to raise a family, and live more prosperously. Some talked about the importance of being able to live off the land and a future where they can continue to hunt and fish and without excessive restrictions. Others talked about their desire for quality schools and having doctors and health care providers locally instead of having to drive to other cities and counties. Some talked about a future where local business growth would be supported through private/public partnerships that invest in current local businesses.

Many participants expressed desire for family wage jobs, affordable housing, educational choices, and more recreation options. Others discussed a desire to promote company investment in the community, attracting companies with ethical environmental and labor practices, increasing emphasis on tourism, supporting local business, and support for contractors so they have the capacity to do the audits required to get government financial support.

A variety of participants expressed values relating to fairness, such as winners compensating losers for the sake of community connectedness. Some attendees described a desire for greater community participation, to prevent good things about the community from changing, and an emphasis on the importance of local history.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants saw value in the GMA as a means of protecting agricultural lands, protecting critical areas, and tailoring development models to individual community needs. SMA was said to be valuable for protecting shorelines.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Participants talked about how growth planning at 20 year horizons has worked well to help communities effectively plan for long-term needs and how mandatory updates ensure local jurisdictions are using the most current science and information to inform decisions and changing conditions. Some talked about how it has worked well at protecting critical areas and ag and timber lands. SMA and SEPA were said to work well and without these laws it would be easier for outside, well-resourced entities to develop without consideration for impacts to the local community. Some talked about how it has been valuable that GMA and SMA provide opportunities for public input and ability to be a part of creating plans.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants talked about a variety of things that are not working well in the current growth planning framework. Responses included:

- A lack of mechanisms to ensure infrastructure and government services keep pace with growth
- Regulations can serve as roadblocks for development, especially for attracting and retaining new local businesses.
- Politics interferes too much with decision-making.
- The Growth Management Act does not work well for rural counties and urban areas today could not be built under existing regulations.
- The permitting process is too lengthy. It can take four years for the state to do an Environmental Impact Survey
- There is no landscape-scale approach to the environmental planning components. Local jurisdictions only measure the impact of projects at the local level, instead of the cumulative effects on the landscape or watershed.
- Current government regulations associated with the GMA are insufficiently clear in direction and contributing to ineffective coordination of local jurisdictions to respond to growth adequately.
- Regulations can also be too specific, as is the case for stormwater retention approaches that lack the flexibility to be effective.
- Local jurisdictions do not have the funds or staff to comply with unfunded mandates such as GMA. Public works departments in smaller communities rely on consultants to meet regulations, increasing costs. Turnover within planning departments also slows down permitting process.
- Could facilitate better relationships with tribal governments
- Planning and financing for broadband internet infrastructure
- Costs to mitigate land and the competition for mitigation lands once available

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

When discussing purpose of the framework, elected officials described the importance of managing growth in a more efficient way.

Participants shared how the framework disproportionately impacts rural communities. There was a perception that the current framework is too one-size-fits-all and has an inherent urban versus rural bias. Some stated that the environmental regulations in rural communities stifle the local economy. Some perceived the state Department of Ecology and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as writing their own rules, creating a regulatory creep. Others mentioned multiple examples of state agencies operating ineffectively, specifically within fisheries and elk management. Participants also cited a lack of voice for rural communities to be heard to address inequities.

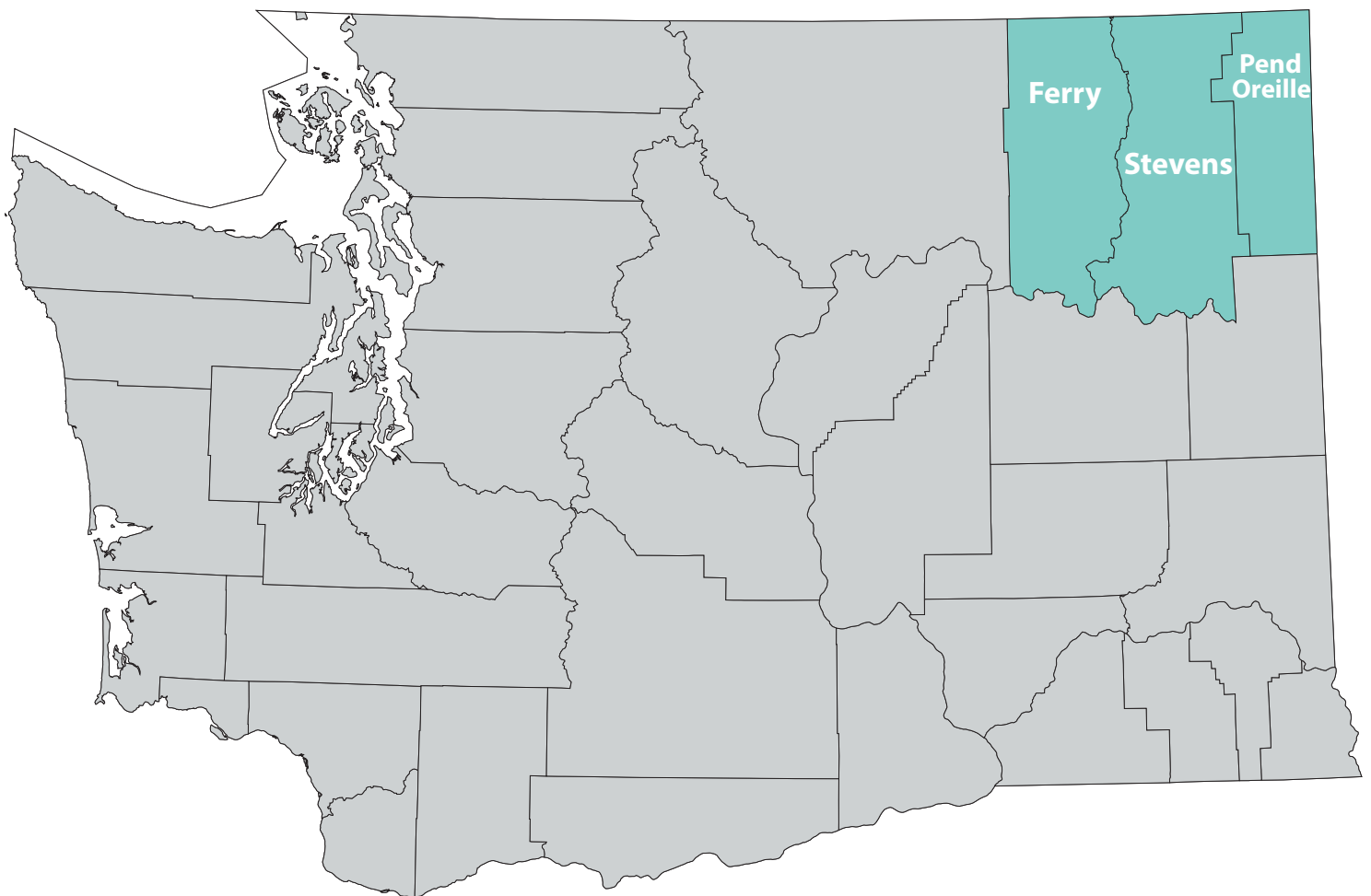
Attendees did not mention any aspects of the framework that work well.

Elected officials described several community goals for the future:

- Autonomy, self-reliance, and preservation of rural character
- Broadband internet
- To keep young people in the area. Attendees repeatedly expressed how young people are forced to leave the area for school and work.
- Attract new homebuyers.
- Affordable housing, amenities, quality health care, and decent schools.
- Improved transportation systems

Regarding public engagement, elected officials described how online platforms were ineffective and many residents are too busy working to get involved. Others described the community as already engaged. Some participants described the need to increase community volunteering. Others see their role as elected officials as representative of the working families who do not have the time or money to participate.

FERRY, STEVENS, & PEND OREILLE WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- County Fair
- Broadband
- Prospector's Day
- Wildfire
- Lumber Mill closed
- Gold Mine closed
- Flooding
- High unemployment and poverty

- Local industries
- Lumber mills 1950s
lumber mills closing in
ferry county
- Mining opening and
closing of mines

- In the po river valley
flooding 2009 opening of
corrios center (wellness
/ medical / community
center)
- Closing of cusick match
factory in 1930s

Ferry co "opted out " of
GMA in 2017

Northport community 100
years ago- major wildfire-
destroyed structures and
livelihoods from forest. Took
decades to recover

40s grand coulee dam

- Closure of mines, log
processing, and lack of
economic growth. Fire,
wind, and flooding create
losses with little post
damage growth.
- Ferry county and its
cities, towns, is extremely
limited for growth by
less than 18% taxable
land and large sections
controlled by state and
federal agencies

Slowing growth pattern
Fluctuation in mining and
timber boom or bust

Lack of living wage jobs
decline of timber and
mining dampens industry /
manufacturing sectors

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Wsu's expansion of
extension service long-
term investment of tech
assistance
- Federal regulation of
national forests ...reduced
economic benefit from
timber harvests
- Natural disasters flood,
drought, wildfire
- Climate change weather,
perturbations, forest
health

2008 economic downturn

Area built around natural
resources and private
property rights

Northport community
1960's hippies discovered
northport and are here to
this day. Opened up the
community to diversity but
also creates an interesting
dichotomy

- Timber, farming, silica
plant, recreation
- County agricultural
development council
promoting agriculture
- Timber tariffs

Gold ferry co historically a
gold mining economy

Recently: 10 or so years of
healthy economic activity
via Kinross

Stevens county

- 125 - 80 years ago
dredging of valleys
wetlands to develop
farmable ground
- 100- 40 years ago
advances in farming
production, extension
outreach, research
- Mid 70's - akoo plant
industrial jobs large
population increase
12,000 to 28,000
- 80-90s agricultural
infrastructure outdated
farming not as profitable,
farms becoming
fragmented

Establishment of grand
coulee dam

- Technological advancements internet cellphone, computerization
- Landscape of Stevens county changed
- Technology brings the world to our own "space"

- Set visioning process (successful economics together)
- Newfc northeast Washington forestry coalition (end of "timber wars")

Flooding and loss of job opportunities equals crumbling infrastructure and poor housing stock in Po River Valley

City of Colville specific

- 2000 – Investments in downtown (streetscape, parking, and pedestrian)
- 2015-present – organizational and operational improvements to actively manage downtown Colville

- Opening and later closure of Northwest alloys in Addy
- Closure of Vaagen Lumber mill in Republic
- Loss of dairies due to regulations

Wolves equals loss of livestock in ranching industry equals loss of Cariboo and other wildlife

HIRST 2017 water rights / uncertainty in rural areas regarding development

- Glacial period
- Grand Coulee dam
- Population increase then decrease until 1970's native and white
- USFS hor. Sales reductions 1980s-90's
- Loss of sawmills and employment 1990-2012
- Increase in new residents 2014-present
- Pressure on forests
- Income issues / business, etc.
- Traffic / infrastructure

- 1914 creation of the Kalispel Indian Reservation which is bisected by the P.O. River. This combined with delayed settlement of the P.O. County created the framework for a dynamic community
- The tribe was never segregated from the rest of the community. The Kalispel were able to practice their traditional lifestyle much longer than other tribes.
- Pollution from Canadian mining Kettle River, Lake Roosevelt

Fire – 2014 – present

Larger than historic detrimental to community and economy

20 year forest health plan

Firewise fire adapted community

Grand Coulee Dam

Forest Restoration / Stewardship

- Decline of natural resource industries (mining / timber)
- Columbia River treaty changes to water rights and impacts on fish
- Computer / internet technology and access
- Globalization of trade and impact on agricultural markets (NAFTA – impacts on lumber and agriculture)
- Homestead Act
- Gold Mining – Chineses
- Railroad
- Boomtowns pop up then crash
- Government regulations -forestry -air - agriculture -growth
- 1910 Forest Fire
- Lost of manufacturing plant
- Tec dumping toxic into river – polluting air
- Building of dam

Cannabis legalization

Farmers markets

100+ establishment of reservations new settlers and gold mining and agricultural predominant industries

50+ increase logging industry 25-50 + back to land movement

10-25+ decline in natural resource board industries

Slowing down of population and job growth

Decrease in good paying jobs

Decrease in agricultural including dairy and cattle

Poverty level increased

Crime increased

decreased Workforce participation

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

A large portion of the discussion addressed the need for broadband internet. Participants described the influence a lack of technology plays in providing accessible health services and attracting young talent to the area. Some continued to discuss how many young people generally leave and do not return. Participants also described the positive impacts of local volunteer organization as formative of the quality of life.

Participants discussed a number of other aspects that impact the quality of life: to preserve the environment in terms of clean water and air; for quality local schools at all levels of education; to improve infrastructure, education, health systems, transportation, and rail; and to increase resources to address opioid addiction in the region.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Participants frequently talked about a desire to preserve the character of the region. Participants described the culture as valuing a proximity to wildlife, self-reliance, and independence. Such values conflict with certain government regulations in the growth management framework, while many also conveyed a benefit to government involvement in infrastructure investments. Several participants expressed a desire for economic development that does not change the character of the region, such as diversifying agricultural production.

Participants expressed a desire for more diversity and inclusion, citing a need for a more multigenerational community. Some focused on the large retirement community in the area and their need for safety, low crime, and privacy. Participants also discussed creating apprenticeship and internship opportunities to attract young people to the area.

Additional comments included topics of governance, a desire for property tax reform that takes the limits of land use into account and a desire for a return of federal buy-back programs. There was also a desire to more easily sell land as a means to supplement income in times of economic downturn.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants saw the purpose of the growth planning framework as a way to address increasing population growth, create a sense of predictability, and protect property values. Other participants talked about the delineation between urban and rural regions in order to improve efficiency of government services and delivery of infrastructure projects. Some said the value of the growth planning framework is that it contains growth to specific areas, which makes it more cost effective for local

governments to provided urban services.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Participants mentioned that Planning Commissions work well in writing comprehensive plans and advising County Commissioners. Others touched on the effective information sharing with federal agencies. Some specified this comes from agency employees retiring in the area and volunteering in their free time to improve coordination. Some touched on the framework's requirements for conscious decision-making regarding utility expansions, which has effectively stopped utilities from growing too big. Others said that the Municipal Research and Services Center have been a benefit. Some touched on the benefits of having avenues for appeals, which helps retain local autonomy.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants expressed a variety of concerns regarding what aspects of the growth planning framework do not work well. A number of participants talked about how they felt the Growth Management Hearing Board frequently makes decisions at odds with local desires. Some expressed that the framework insufficiently takes local circumstances and constraints into account. Others described a desire for increased flexibility in the framework. Some mentioned that the appeals process is lengthy and burdensome. They talked about how some counties find themselves in an endless cycle of appeals and how the cost of defending against appeals impacts county budgets and ability to meet the service needs of communities. Others talked about how counties are held to different standards depending on whether or not you get appealed. And some shared frustration with having local decisions appealed when they were created and agreed on by the community. It was suggested that a mediation or arbitration process could be created as an alternative.

Participants talked about there being a lack of clarity, predictability, and flexibility in the growth planning framework. Others mentioned that a lack of predictability in the framework impacts community economic development. Some suggested it would be helpful if the State were to design a series of toolkits to enable local governments to meet GMA and other growth planning requirements. This would help provide better clarity and certainty about the laws and would help address capacity challenges for many small and rural cities and counties. Others suggested small or non-growing cities and counties be held to fewer requirements of have a "GMA lite" option. Another suggestion was to look at Oklahoma's model of sharing resources among jurisdictions such as MPOs that also provide permit processing services, as one way to meet capacity constraints.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Attendees mentioned that the framework needs to address climate change, that the need for flexibility to address local circumstances is missing, and that GMA planning should shift to being about achieving a vision and successful outcomes as opposed to whether or not legal requirements are being met.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Some elected officials began by describing the purpose of the growth planning framework as a means of providing predictability in terms of growth. Others saw the purpose of the framework as a tool to minimize cost of infrastructure improvements. Some expressed the value they saw in allowing local communities to determine land use. Others spoke on the value of environmental protection. Some touched on the benefits of having a coordinated strategy for growth.

When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework work well, some elected officials spoke of the increasing occurrences of people coming together to have conversations about what is appropriate at the local level. Some touched on the benefits of having clear zoning regulations. Others mentioned that parts of the framework worked well at preserving agricultural industry in the region. When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework do not work well, some elected officials mentioned that the framework has failed to respect local autonomy. Some mentioned that the LAMIRD tool is too restrictive. Others talked about how over burdensome regulations negatively impact property values and this hurts local landowners who have their retirements tied to their land. Others talked about the GMA goal of affordable housing, but lacking resources to implement it.

Some mentioned that efforts to reduce urban sprawl do not apply to rural areas. Some touched on an incongruity between the framework's efforts to preserve agricultural and forest land in Ferry county, which has little agricultural land. Others mentioned the futility of trying to protect lands that people cannot afford to live on. Elected officials also echoed sentiments expressed in the multi-sector workshop, felling that the Growth Management Hearing Boards are too responsive to appellants, especially to those from outside the region.

Shifting focus to the future, some elected officials touched on the desire for both affordable housing and economic opportunity. Others spoke on the desire of many in the region to get away from the rest of the world; some mentioned that folks want to live off the grid, but still have internet. Others expressed that people in the region want basic accommodations, a rural way of life, jobs, and to keep their families in the region. Some spoke on the desire to keep natural resource industries alive. Others expressed a desire for job skills training opportunities to counteract the exodus of skilled laborers from the area. Some spoke on a desire for increased differentiation amongst various rural communities. Others expressed a desire for more effective coordination amongst state agencies.

With regards to public engagement, elected officials mentioned that public engagement is largely active in the region. There is a need, however, for certain changes to appeals. One issue has been the influence of outside interest groups actively appealing local development activities. An improvement could be to change the standing requirement for appeals. There was a desire to look deeper into the experience, qualifications, and jurisdictions of the Hearings Board to address inconsistencies in how regulations apply across the state. Another idea was to change the burden of proof to align with the recommendations from the American Planning Association.

YAKIMA WORKSHOP



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- 100+ land taken from tribes; irrigation
- 50 years- primarily farming white, conservative
- 25 years- growing ethnic diversity

- Irrigation infrastructure
- Enabled agricultural development
- Impacted salmon
- Complex western water rights / laws
- Aquavella attempt to clarify

Heritage university opens

- 25 years
 - less conservative
 - sprawling development
- 10 years
 - diverse city council
 - water issues
 - Threatening farming
 - Less conservative

Yakima downtown revitalization / central plaza idea emerges

Yakima basin integrated plan started in 2009 example or model for other basins. Diverse interests

- Treaty of 1855
- Ongoing conflict over resources
- Racism (blatant and institutional)
- Inter-community tension
- Recent collaborative efforts

Opening of PNWU medical school

Change in management of 2 major Yakima hospitals

- Water issues
- Economic development
- Growth

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Timber / coal decline
- Change in local jobs
- Reassessment of enviro values
- Shift towards conservation management
- Struggle to rebrand economy

Beginnings of wineries and breweries are creating new opportunities for the Yakima valley

- Water rights adjudication
- Drought
- How to mitigate impacts of drought

- Introduction of irrigation and modern agriculture late 1800s
- Spotted owl decision
 - -reduced logging on federal land by 95%
- Boltz decision on Salmon
 - -Morass of compliance problem \$\$
- Alar (?) Panic
 - -killed off small tree fruit growers and co-ops
- Globalization
 - -economy of huge(?)

Increase in agriculture Drives our economy

- Seattle boom
- Population growth
- Tourism / visitors
- Increase in outdoor recreation
- Increase housing market \$

Population increase and with that economics and inconsequence consumption is been increase too

We've been able to export our products to Europe, Japan, China

Irrigation water arrives in Yakima county and subsequent water use laws

Yakima's flood of '96, 100 year flood destroyed homes from Nile to Tappenah. 111 homes destroyed, 2205 damaged, 17 million spent to repair roads

Resulted in 20 years of investment to rebuild homes, bridges and rethink how to manage the river. County created our flood control district in 1989 to address river management issues across municipal boundaries. Resulted in coordinated investment like FbD (?)

- Settlement of the region
- Treaty of 1855
- U.S. termination era policies, Dawes Act
- Tribal assertion of sovereign rights according to the treaty
- -access to usual and accustomed places to hunt, gather, fish traditional foods
- Loss of aluminum industry
- Gain of Insitu
- Loss of timber industry
- Impact of drug use
- Agricultural economy up and down
- Development / land use competition
- Education options – CWU, YUC, P.T.I, heritage YU tech, PNWU
- Immigration changes
- Advancements in agriculture
- Water / irrigation
- Tourism – agriculture, wine, etc.

- Waves of migration / immigration
- Manifest destiny of 1700s/1800s (westward expansion of the U.S)
- Late 20th century agricultural immigration

Agriculture had grown

Immigration had grown

Economic had grown

Irrigation infrastructure development

Helped to create the Yakima valley of today

Impacts of development on the basin

Restoration of these impacts

- Eruption of mt. St. Helens
- Settling of valley / longmaps
- Creation of irrigation systems
- Central WA St. Fair
- Creation of heritage university
- Train
- Policing
- Environmental barriers
- Place
- Rural
- Isolated environments
- Limited gang-violence prevention dollars
- Limitations of mental health resources

Youth

- shifts from cultivating leadership opportunities
- shifting back to career-readiness non-traditional academic tracks
- limited opportunities for youth leadership

Immigration labor trends

- Japanese
- Filipino
- Mexican
- Chinese

Yakama Nation

-Intersections between place-people-community

- Historic and Recent Droughts
- Economic impacts (negative)
- Driving innovative solutions and compromise
- Climate change planning

Increase in agriculture / diversity of crops

Labor shortage issues H2A increase use of workers

Railroad comes to union gap and Yakima

Salmon decline in area rivers and streams

- White settlers come to Yakima valley
- Irrigated agriculture comes to Yakima valley
- Heavy use of pesticides and stream sedimentation in Yakima Valley

Lost out on being WA capitol

- The valley's irrigation systems have had a huge impact on the region allowing farms and orchards access to much needed water resources.
 - Climate / weather and upkeep of systems can be challenges
 - How snow pack is another challenge
-

- Irrigation
 - Immigration
 - Transportation (rail, freeways)
-

Kittitas County

- CWU
- Ellensburg Rodeo
-

Yakima County

- Port creation
-

Present

- Job creation provides culture and opportunities that may not have existed prior
-

Fires

Mount St. Helens erupted

Mt. St. Helens eruption

Irrigation then and now life blood

Railroad and dams – transport and agricultural products

Water storage and irrigation in the Yakima, both upper and lower valley

Supports the economic vitality of the region. Provides a large cultural integration. Keeps the valley agriculture based.

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

There are a variety of influences that on the quality of life and the needs of the Yakima community. Some participants expressed a need for family wage jobs and government assistance in creating employment. Other major influences included the accessibility of health care services, educational opportunities, food security, and clean water and air. Mental health services were especially a concern. Some additionally spoke on the interrelated challenges of low income, lack of affordable housing, expenses of car ownership, and a lack of public transportation options forcing car ownership as a necessity. Some called for economic development opportunities targeting youth and a desire for increased “mentorship of culture and education.” Others expressed a desire for people in the community to feel like they are a part of a greater purpose.

Participants also shared that the clarity of regulations influences their implementation and therefore the quality of life in Yakima. Many commented on how excessive regulation causes an undue burden for rural and small communities. Regulations can stymie economic growth and small business development.

Some spoke on a desire for increased diversity and inclusion. Participants shared that engagement of the public can evolve systems of power and provide opportunities for exposure to different cultures.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Some participants reiterated the need for affordable housing, for both homeowners and renters. Others expressed a desire to maintain livability as the economy grows. Some posed questions regarding economic diversification beyond agriculture. Others expressed a desire for greater clarity in the regulations of the growth planning framework. Some articulated a need for government to be a partner, not a ruler.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

A wide array of participants described the framework’s purpose as a tool to ensure growth is meaningful and manageable, balancing the needs of both rural and urban environments. Some specified the framework’s preservation of agricultural lands by reducing encroachment and urban sprawl. Some saw value in developing a clear plan with a common set of values. Others saw value in the conservation of natural resources. Some said they valued the attempt to recognize differences between communities across the state.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Participants shared aspects of the growth planning framework that worked well, including:

- Economic growth in Yakima due to business development and recruitment.
- The Yakima Basing has created an integrated plan that serves a model for future collaboration.
- Some participants mentioned GMA assisting in consolidating farms, which some saw as an issue.
- SMA enables communities to meet their needs locally.
- The Voluntary Stewardship Program works to protect farms, using a different regulatory framework than the GMA critical area regulations.
- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants described a variety of aspects of the growth planning framework that do not work well. Recurring themes included:

- One size does not fit all. Regulations should be more community-based and flexible to local choices and circumstances, especially with Urban Growth Areas.
- Fostering and promoting regionalism.
- Enforcement. Some participants discussed state or local governments abusing authority to the detriment of the community, businesses, and individuals. Others noted lack of enforcement for critical areas,
- Incongruent regulations increase the delay, cost, and uncertainty of growth. There is lack of clarity about which environmental regulations apply and some overlap in processes and rules.
- Spending is out of control in the state. The GMA taxing structure puts the counties to a severe disadvantage by providing services while tax based erodes by cities focused on new growth. Annexation also leads to decreases in tax revenues.
- Some proposed utilizing Multi-Agency Permitting Teams as a way to coordinate different agencies.
- Coordinating transportation to support the Center of Yakima
- Less prosperous communities have a more difficult time meeting requirements than more affluent communities. Some specified that the annexation process saps tax revenue for counties. Others worried that the state excessively spends funds in ways that do not reflect local needs.
- Permit process is antiquated and should be modernized to include electronic permit applications.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Some participants expressed a desire for more legislation to increase availability of affordable housing. Some suggested increasing involvement of prominent local community business and industry leaders in the development and implementation of regulations. Others described a lack of mechanisms to address and manage unintended consequences of the framework's impact.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

A workshop for elected officials was scheduled, then cancelled due to lack of participants. Elected officials in Yakima County had opportunities to participate in a workshop held in conjunction with an annual meeting for Washington State Association Counties and for Washington Association of Cities. All tribal, state, and local elected officials also received links to the online questionnaire.

KITTITAS WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Introduction of drainage districts
- Introduction of irrigation districts
- Trains and west side (pugetopolis) trade

- Weekend push from west side / suncadia
- Effect on housing
- West side versus local
- Bedroom community
- Lack of economic development / jobs

Arrival of the railroad in the 1880s

- Miners needing beef lamb and dairy from Ellensburg
- Loss of state capital opportunity

- Decision to not partake in Columbia river dam construction
- Energy cost increasing
- Dams
- Limitations of government traditional farming methods

- Introductions of the state normal school
- Moving from wells and septic to water tower and sewer

- Native American occupation
- Irrigation companies
- Bureau of declamation irrigation project
- The coal mines
- The rise of the timber industry
- The growth of the cities and towns
- Irrigation supports the agricultural industry
- Import parts of the economy
- Create a great county

- Water restrictions
- Fires
- Resort area development

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Access to area 1-90 improvements
- More people huge growth spurt with development
- More people recreating and increased use of recreation areas
- More traffic on weekends higher need for maintenance and preservation
- Forest management practices (i.e. not entering into forests to remove dead trees etc.)
- More destructions re camping and access to areas from wildfires

- Allowable uses and densities
- Impacts to resource lands rural character
- Lack of affordable housing
- Easy commutes traffic, housing impacts

Central Washington university

- Defined development and employment
- Creates economy
- 1/2 of population transient

- Great fire of 1889 (Ellensburg)
- Defined downtown development
- Gave us CWU
- Affected future direction

- Development of irrigation infrastructure
- Natural resources
- Coal
- Logging
- Water
- Deep soils
- Range lands
- Wildlife

- Decline of forest products industry due to globalization and federal environmental policy
- Development of counties irrigation projects
- 1-90 development
- CWU development

- GMA noncompliance 2006-2014
- Water moratorium
- Renewable energy / SEC
- Resource uses
- Proximity to west side
- Technology / telecommuting
- Wildfires
- Flooding

Past 10 years

- 2013-14 compliance with GMA
- Upper county water moratorium 2009ish
- 2014-2016 waterbanking for county
- Continued value in agriculture
- Large wildfires
- 1-90 travels

25 years

- 2006-2007 GMA non-compliance
- 2007-2008 recession began
- Late 90s forestry shifting as industry
- Suncadia MPR approved
- Continued value in agriculture

50 years

- County entered GMA in 1990
- Development regulations established
- Continued Value in agriculture

100+ years

- Booming forestry, mining communities
- Immigration
- Agriculture value
- Railroad
- Great fires eburg and cleelum
- Shaped development industry base changes commuting options
- Government began and has continued to quash the ability of farmers to promote / retain "rural feel" that so many people say they want to preserve

- Rodeo
- Farming
- Movement of people to the community from the west side and beyond
- Environments outdoor activities
- Coal mining in upper county
- Rodeo is ongoing community engagement
- Community growing at rapid rate need for affordable housing and services
- Many visitors come to area to experience outdoors
- Families of coal miners have stayed for generations

Agriculture and irrigation infrastructure

Coalmining

Logging – timber industry

Central Washington university

Ranching

Interstate 90

Recreation

Decline in local economy due to transition from forestry and coal mining

Growing agricultural economy

Quality education

- Conservative growth policies adopted over years
- Urban rural character preserved

- Great fire of 1889
- Community rallied to rebuild downtown
- Downtown has consequently become very important
- Historic preservation policies adopted
- Establishment of CWU (Washington school established, when bid to be state capitol failed)

- Natural resources have been modified due to population growth and influences from western WA
- Irrigated agriculture
- Forest health has deteriorated especially in the last 20 years

Construction of I90 and later, 1-82

Establishment of CWU in 1891 after Ellensburg didn't get named the state capitol

- Immigration, mining, timber, agriculture, ranching
 - Fire both historic and recent
 - CWU
-

Ecology v acquavella court case and adjudication

- Location of railroad, CWU, and interstate
 - Development of irrigation systems
-

- Water acquavella boldt
 - CWU
 - Agriculture shift to basic in 50s
 - Disappearance of resource based industries
 - GMA
 - Suncadia
 - Influx of second home / rec landowners
 - -development of clean energy tech
 - Unwelcome siting of large facilities
-

- 100+ years ago – immigration to work in miners and forestry and culture and identity
 - Wind / solar energy installations and land use conflicts
 - Water rights issues
-

- Growth of CWU
 - ½ of all EBRG retail
 - 1/5 jobs in eburg and 1/10 in county
 - Top artistic, intellectual and educational opportunity
 - Construction of suncadia – changing the population and demographics of upper county
 - X king co growth – pushing people and biz owner over the mountains
-

- Irrigation leads to diversified agriculture
 - Coal, timber, grazing leads to utilization of natural resources to improve land management and (hopefully) mitigate fire
 - Movement of people
 - i-90 to / from SEA area leads to increased population / community amenities
 - changes to zoning and land use
 - increased regulation (concern about NHA)
 - Coal mining and logging (upper county)
 - Suncadia (master planned resort)
 - 1-90 (original and current construction)
 - Culture, growth, funding, transportation, economic development
-

- Ellensburg fire
 - Kittitas county water bank formation lawsuit
-

City of Ellensburg Fire 1889

- Wildfires
 - Taylor bridge
 - Jolly mountain
-

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Some participants expressed the value of open spaces to their community, including outdoor recreation. Others talked about the impact of tourism and large groups of people coming to the region. Some expressed a desire for better emergency health care services, others expressed a desire for more affordable housing; some expanded on the latter, saying that there needs to be a variety of housing options to suit a diversity of economic bases. Others brought up the idea of having smaller lot sizes for housing. Some discussed their desire to retain the family farm culture and sparsely populated valley character. Others said they wanted to further decrease urban sprawl.

Participants also mentioned the need for broadband internet and a functional airport. Some discussed the need to ensure that state regulations apply well to both western and eastern Washington. Others described a desire for better paying jobs outside of the service industry. Some touched on the need to take more effective proactive action regarding forest fires.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Many participants noted that recreation and open spaces are why people want to live in Kittitas County and surrounding areas. Some participants shared insights as to how the attractiveness of natural resources has a potential to influence the quality of life in Kittitas.

Participants talked about how an influx and infill of people moving from the west side of the mountains for the natural beauty. This increase in population affects affordable housing, access to health services, broadband internet connectivity shortages, increases rural sprawl, and decreases sustainability of landscape with threatened by population increases.

Others talked about supporting natural resource development requires investment in forest management to prevent wildfires, changes in land use policy, and enhancements in transportation infrastructure. With respect to policy, many participants urged policy adjustments that consider the unique conditions in Kittitas County and avoid one-size-fits-all regulations across the state. Transportation includes local circulation such as bike paths that connect upper and lower county areas to recreation opportunities, as well as a fully functioning airport for regional access.

On the subject of the economic health of Kittitas, some discussed low wages of service industry workers and the over 700,000 of unused commercial forest lands for alternative energy. Many suggested encouraging agricultural ventures as a method to diversify the economy and preserve the cultural legacy of the area.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Some participants shared that they view the state growth planning framework as an attempt at preventing sprawl via regional and subarea planning. Participants talked about how the framework compels cooperation between counties and cities on population forecasts and the consequent impacts on the Urban Growth Areas. Others said cooperation prevents growth from sprawling outside of current investments in infrastructure and facilities.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Some participants shared support for cooperation between counties and cities, encouraging historic preservation in Ellensburg and Roslyn, and critical areas regulations protecting natural assets, including water usage and availability. Others talked about how GMA has led to cooperation between counties and cities on coming up with growth forecasts and to collaboratively assign targets and shape urban growth areas. Some talked about how critical areas regulations have worked well. Others commented on Ellensburg having developed a more efficient and predictable permit process. And some mentioned that the GMA has led to better efforts to plan for water availability.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Many participants had concerns about what they described as a one-size-fits-all approach of the state planning framework that they felt discounts regional issues, decreases the effectiveness of policy implementation, and leads to suboptimal land use decisions and fragmentation in funding.

Participants said that the State has not kept up with the funding it promised to local governments to do the required planning. They said that there is no dedicated revenue stream to support local planning. Some suggested amending the law to allow adding a charge to building permits as a way to pay for the updates of plans and codes. They said that this makes sense because it is in the interest of all permit applicants to help make the rules that govern permit applications are kept current and clear.

Participants cited SEPA regulations as inconsistent in their application. For example, a determination of SEPA non-significance resulted in solar projects on prime agricultural lands in Kittitas. Those who participated encouraged a localized solution where technical experts can have more authority.

Some felt there was inequity when it comes to the capacity of large and small cities to meet planning requirements. Participants talked about how the focus of small cities is often on the need to grow, not on managing growth. Smaller cities have to rely more heavily on building permits to generate necessary revenue because their tax base does not generate sufficient revenue to support city operations.

Participants said housing was a major element that is not working. Some felt the increasing amount of regulations has led to the increase in housing costs. Others said that rising costs and declining affordability are issues in Kittitas County. They said that this is due in part to an influx of people moving to Ellensburg or buying second homes in the rural parts of the County. Participants also talked about how there is a lack of clarity and guidance on how to actually achieve the GMA housing goal.

Some participants said that the GMA direction to focus growth in cities, not unincorporated areas, has chased tax revenues into cities. They said that this constitutes a transfer of wealth from counties to cities, which puts county governments on increasingly difficult fiscal footing. Some said that perhaps counties should be given the authority for a utility tax, which cities can now charge.

Some saw as a problem that annexation laws enable cities to annex only tax positive lands, which not only leaves the county with less revenue but sometimes leaves out of the annexation area roads and bridges in need of repair and maintenance, which continues to be the county's burden. Several participants suggested a white paper be prepared to address how counties and cities can jointly plan for the unincorporated part of the urban growth area and design ways to share long-term revenues for areas

that are candidates for eventual annexation.

Some said that SEPA and GMA are redundant and said that SEPA imposes requirements that GMA can handle in a more comprehensive and effective way. Others said that GMA and SEPA need to be better aligned, and that SEPA, when applied properly, still has value.

Others expressed that the framework does not provide adequate staffing of technical experts or resources to comply with regulations. Some said that the State should consider borrowing successful methods from Oregon which provides funding for complying with the state framework, including staffing and technical systems, such as Geographic Information Systems.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Some participants said there was need for rural growth in Kittitas, which can differ from the type of growth required in western Washington. Some suggested that subarea plans between and among counties could enable more collaboration. Others talked about how the GMA does not adequately address the needs of rural areas when it comes to growth and desire for economic viability.

Some participants said climate change is a missing element in GMA and should be added. Others talked about needed adaptive management and that monitoring, and evaluation was a critical and missing element in the growth planning framework. Others talked about the lack of connection between water and land use planning and this was significant and not addresses in the current system.

Others suggested growth redistribution through “new town” created to draw population growth from the Puget Sound towards livable, walkable rural communities.

Some mentioned that the state planning framework could do more to implement agricultural use by connecting potential farmers with farming opportunities. Others talked about needed more voluntary and incentive-based approaches in order to address the unique circumstances of cities and counties and how such approaches would offer greater flexibility and where largely missing from the current growth planning framework.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials said many of the things that were addressed in the multi-sector workshop regarding the purpose and value of the growth planning framework. Some said that GMA goals and requirements, and locally adopted comprehensive plans, provide guidance for preventing sprawl, protect the environment, and improve coordination among local governments. Others said that the planning framework helps local government be proactive rather than reactive in their planning and decision-making. Some said the purpose of the growth planning framework is to ensure planning is done in a way that aligns with the vision of the community and preserves the existing and historical character that communities value.

When asked about what was not working well, the elected officials echoed many of the concerns expressed in the multi-sector workshop. A number of them cited issues with inadequate state funding for planning and implementation. Some suggested creating flexibility in the law to allow permit fees to also support comprehensive planning efforts. Others talked about the prohibitive costs of planning and the influence of annexation policy on tax revenues for planning and service provision.

Many of the elected officials said that the 1% property tax limitation is slowly eroding the ability of local governments, especially counties, to fund essential services. They pointed out that the annual increase in the cost of providing local government services is at least three times the capped 1% increase in property tax. Some said that strengthening the framework would require revisions to state tax policies

and agreements between county and city governments to share certain costs and revenues. Both county and city elected officials said that unincorporated islands surrounded by a city are a problem and agreed that in such situations, the City should be able to annex without needing a supermajority of agreement from residents.

Many talked about housing affordability as a major issue and said the housing element in GMA needs to be looked at and modernized to address current needs and changing conditions.

There was talk about how requirements in SEPA and GMA are redundant and that a streamlining process is needed. Others disagreed and said, if used properly, SEPA is able to address issues that GMA cannot.

Some viewed the planning framework as too easily manipulated by non-local interest groups who can slow decision-making. Others viewed the public as having conflicting values such as wanting the amenities of urban living and the comfort of small-town culture, the access to natural resources without suffocating regulatory policies, and family-oriented services versus retirement-focused services. Some elected officials described how complications in the public's values, representation, and preferences combined with a lack of understanding of land use decisions gives rise to a need for more interaction and engagement with the public.

Several of the elected officials said that the threshold for filing a GMA appeal is too low because it is too easy for people to file an appeal. They also said that the Growth Board gives insufficient deference to the decisions of local governments. Some said the current appeals process does not work and that it would be better if appeals went directly to Superior Court instead of the Growth Management Hearings Board. Some said that the members of the Growth Board need to have greater qualifications because several of them have demonstrated that they do not have great familiarity with planning practice or the law on planning.

GRANT, LINCOLN, & ADAMS WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Development of agriculture
- Canada-US water treaty
- Building of dams

Construction of the Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dam 1958-1962

Construction of Priest Rapids Dam and Wanapum Dam

1930s-1940s

Implementation of the Columbia basin irrigation project

- Coulee dam
- Agricultural development

- Reclaiming district
- Region airport
- Grant county PUD
- GMA
- Washington water law
- Lagging (?) of regulations slow acceptance of new tech
- Transportation / communication
- Guides how everything will be done

Fairchild airforce base – growth impacted Lincoln county growth / schools

1941 Grand Coulee Dam creates lake Roosevelt

1946 Lake Roosevelt National Recreational Area established

1950s Our aquifer began providing irrigation options

- Lincoln county one of the largest wheat producing counties in the nation
- Rail helped transport grain more efficiently
- Tourism became important industry
- Our groundwater is dropping

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Closing of airforce base
- Establishment of grant county
- Development of Columbia basin project
- Location of Larson afb at Moses lake
- Development of the hydroelectric project
- Adoption of the GMA
- Robust power and fiber network development
- Interpretation and revisioning of state water laws

USBR –bringing irrigation water to the basin. Large agricultural area

Water! Expansion

- Labor age
- Labor laws

Roads –improved access to rural areas –also SR2 defined or redefined “downtown” “main street”

Small schools needing to merge impacts rural community identity and central hub of small towns

1800s agriculture

Late 1800s two rail lines come through

Expansion of transportation options

- road
- rail
- aviation

- Railroad
- Grand coulee dam
- Columbia basin project
- Issuance of water rights to use the basin aquifers for irrigation
- Agriculture

Our area has changed from row crops and moving towards orchards –bringing in a lot of extra workers

-
- Railroad established towns and cities still critical infrastructure
 - Grand coulee dam – electric resource and availability of irrigation water
 - Columbia Basin Project created viable land and created the basis for the ag economy
 - Minimums of water in the aquifers
-

- Water decline
 - Agriculture
 - New technologies protecting natural resources
 - Canal delivery system
 - Tourism
 - Jobs, communities dependent on water and agriculture
 - Tourism bring in money
 - Water bring crops
-

- Irrigation arrived in the Columbia Basin
 - Agriculture was main driver for first 50 years
 - Diversity of manufacturing business taking over main effort in towns
-

Changes to economy drivers to area

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Workshop participants expressed desire to increase the quality of life by addressing the following issues:

- The community needs to see system improvements to local schools, community colleges, and vocational programs. They said this could be a potential way to help retain youth, and support school districts that are large employers in rural communities.
- Many participants saw a great need for housing improvements and the creation of new housing to attract and retain young residents. Participants also saw a need to connect affordable housing with the availability of services close by. They said that a thriving county includes local job diversity for residents and local availability of services, such as healthcare and other amenities.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

In describing the future for communities across Grant, Lincoln, and Adams counties, some workshop participants described the importance of local control over statewide laws. To ensure predictability of regulations in order to incentivize economic development, they said that local jurisdictions are better placed to decide those regulations, rather than sweeping statewide decisions. Similar sentiments were expressed about modular and mobile home regulations. Other participants described the future need for infrastructure improvements, such as rail access to Grant and Adams counties to transport agricultural products more efficiently.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Workshop participants frequently described the purpose and value of the planning framework as a vision of shared goals and interests that is proactive in addressing growing pains. Participants listed financial responsibility of infrastructure and natural resources specifically. Additionally, some said that the value of the framework is to provide clarity in decision-making rules and create measurable goals.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Many participants said that protection of natural resources and critical areas, based on science, has worked well. Some participants said that the Voluntary Stewardship Program is a successful example of achieving better outcomes using a more focused and incentive-based approach rather than a “one-size-fits-all” regulation.

Several said that the use of data generated for planning purposes, such as GIS, has greatly helped inform both public and private decisions and improved transparency. Participants said that the planning

framework has improved communication and collaboration between counties and between counties and cities.

Others said that the planning under the framework has increased transportation access to services and amenities, especially in rural areas.

Another part of the framework that some participants said worked well are the agriculture designations, such as Grant County's American Viticulture Area (AVA), which supports the growing grape industry.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Many participants said that "One size does not fit all." They said that what works well for the counties on the west side of the state does not necessarily work well in Central Washington. They said that the planning framework needs to recognize important differences across the state and provide flexibility for solutions that best fit each region's circumstances and needs.

A related theme was that counties should be enabled to define rural character to reflect local preferences and circumstances. Some said that this could be accommodated by a process similar to the process of local shoreline programs that are proposed by local government and then adopted by Department of Ecology, or the county specific VSP program that requires adoption of a county stewardship program. Some participants said that perhaps a regionalized system can be developed to determine common and reliable definitions and standards to reduce confusion and inconsistent or unpredictable outcomes.

Some talked about how Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County has had and continues to have growth impacts on eastern Lincoln County. Others talked about how in the last 25 years, merging of school districts and the onset of the Growth Management Act have impacted the area's ability for self-directed growth.

Participants talked about how agriculture in Lincoln County has become one of the largest wheat producing counties in the nation. Other farmers are shifting from row crops (mechanically harvested) to orchard crops (manually harvested) which has led to a greater demand for labor. This has increased the need for H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers. Aside from agricultural labor force shortages, there is a shortage of skilled laborers need to attract businesses. Most residents must commute out of Lincoln County for their job (and other daily necessities), mostly to Spokane. In addition, labor laws have prevented young people from being able to work, which incentivizes them to leave.

Several participants said that cities need more resources to expand utility services outside their present service areas. Some said that requiring cities to expand urban services to the unincorporated UGA could bankrupt them. Similarly, they said that ports should have greater flexibility to enable and serve with utilities commercial or industrial uses – either by expanding the UGA or enabling something like a Master Planned Development in the rural area.

Some participants said that jurisdictional regulatory overlap is problematic, for example, when a development is required to satisfy the requirements of multiple agencies, i.e., fire/water/sewer/health dept/school. One suggestion was for State and local governments to focus on how to coordinate and streamline among jurisdictions to achieve greater consistency, and timeliness for people wishing to invest in or improve their properties.

Several participants described the LAMIRDs provisions as a flaw in the GMA. An example was given of how LAMIRDs can have residential development and some have agriculture service uses, but the GMA limitations on allowable uses and prohibition on expansion greatly restrict their viability and potential to accommodate future growth. Some participants suggested requirements be revised to allow for some commercial or industrial development in the rural area.

Participants also talked about how the GMA appeals process is not working. Some said that the presumption of validity that a local decision is given by the GMA does carry a lot of weight when it gets to the Growth Management Hearings Board. Also mentioned was that the Growth Board is not sufficiently deferential to the decisions made by local governments.

Some participants said SEPA compliance is redundant and makes permit processing much slower. Also mentioned was that SEPA does not generate mitigation like it used to, because much of those mitigations are now handled in code requirements like critical areas regulations, low impact development requirements, etc.

Also discussed was the need to preserve under-used rail rights of way for freight even if they are used as recreational uses in the interim. They said that short-line rail provides an important supplement to trucking to provide freight access for agricultural products.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Participants listed the following:

- Long-range collaboration at the State level is missing and suggested a unified vision about how State agencies, programs and projects can better support local jurisdictions.
- State funding for local government to do the work required by state mandates.
- Water is essential to agricultural industry and thriving communities. The Columbia Basin Project changed water use in the region. The Grand Coulee Dam created Lake Roosevelt, and subsequently the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. More dams, the PUD, irrigation and electricity shaped the agricultural development of the region. In addition, water rights, water law revisions and interpretations have influenced residents who rely on the Columbia and its tributaries. More recent depletion of the Odessa aquifer has made it prohibitively expensive for farmers to irrigate their crops.
- Explore an alternative approach to GMA compliance that would be better suited to the circumstances, priorities, and capacities of rural counties.
- Allow for a "GMA light" version that would impose fewer requirements for growing urban counties.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

During this workshop elected officials talked about the purpose and value of the growth planning framework was to prevent sprawl, connect growth with infrastructure, and make sure growth that does occur reflects the opinion of the public. The framework also helps elected officials designate land use, for example between housing or industrial uses.

When discussing what is working well with the current framework, electeds talked about the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) as a helpful tool because it allows flexibility and provides funding to help implement critical areas protection. The Shoreline Management Act (SMA) updates were also described as helpful because the update included funding. Funding was also a beneficial portion of the Hirst "fix", because it helped implement watershed planning improvements.

When discussing what does not work well, some said that there needs to be a structure from the state, but how it is managed in various areas of the state needs to reflect local circumstances. They said "one

size does not fit all” because the situation in all parts of the state is not the same. For example, Grant County does not face a water shortage, and other counties do. Others talked about how they felt that the laws adopted usually reflect more of western Washington needs. For example, wind turbines created on the east side were done because the west side desired green energy. Suggested was that the planning framework give local jurisdictions the option of setting their own standards, in order to make things more relevant to each county.

Electeds talked about how the threat of appeals and legal costs stymies local decision-making. Others said the programs and requirements of State agencies sometimes are contradictory or confusing. For example, farm worker housing is regulated/administered by the Agriculture Department and is not subject to local land use controls, however the GMA requires counties to plan for and regulate land use and housing specifically.

Several commented that the GMA makes it difficult for rural counties to grow the local economy. For example, that it is difficult for ports to bring business into the rural areas because many of them are not within the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs). Others said that LAMIRDs could provide greater opportunity for economic development as well as housing opportunities, but due to overly restrictive GMA provisions these places are “frozen in time.”

Some said that the growth planning framework needs to provide flexibility for farmers so they can maintain financial viability. They said that large minimum lot sizes in rural areas make it difficult for people to build a new home for a relative on their property. They said that it would greatly help if the planning framework were to allow farmers to sell a 5-acre corner of their (much larger land) for residential use. They observed that the corners outside the irrigated circle are more labor intensive to maintain anyway. They said that increased flexibility of the framework is needed, with VSP as a good model for this.

Some participants were concerned that cities can annex lands that are tax positive, which erodes the tax base for the county because they are left with the roads and road maintenance costs. This is a problem because the costs of counties providing services grows at 2.5 percent annually, however the increase in property tax is limited to 1 percent annually. They said that without state funding for planning or additional sufficient and reliable sources of revenue for other parts of their operating budgets, some counties have had to resort to drawing funds from their capital budgets. This is unsustainable and poses a threat to public safety and freight mobility because Adams, Grant, and Lincoln counties collectively have the most miles of county roads in the state.

When discussing desired future in the region, and what is needed to thrive, some elected officials described a desire for both increased long-term funding and greater flexibility of regulations from the state. Others pointed to examples of more effective government agencies that the state should emulate when designing regulations, such as the VSP and water conservation boards. A multitude of elected officials reiterated the desire for greater local autonomy to ensure regulations and policies best match the needs of the community.

On the subject of public engagement. Some elected officials discussed how anger tends to be a motivator for the public to get engaged. Others discussed the lack of public engagement at regular meetings such as the port, city, or county. Some mentioned the growing difficulty in filling vacancies on small town councils; whereas others discussed the lack of engagement in volunteer committees. Some pointed out that the general public is bust, and relies on elected officials to make decisions in the public’s best interest.

SPOKANE WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Dams: changed recreation, fishing and resources, possibly forever
- Post war construction boom and abandonment of trains and trolley systems in favor of auto-oriented development

- GMA Spokane County adopts very large urban growth boundary
- Downtown become empty
- Many small farms and major prairies disappear
- Conversion of city streets into "stroads" and one way couplets

- Downtown revitalization
- Businesses and people are moving back into the urban core
- People are starting to be priced out of the urban core including small businesses, grocer, services.
- Low income housing is being sited farther from urban core. Services, jobs, education, etc. farther apart

- Great fire 1889 downtown Spokane
- Rebuild to spark new business

- World's Fair 1974
- Riverfront park

Dust bowl- soil and water conservation law as a result in 1939

- Olmstead Brothers Parks system
- Browne's addition Coeur d'alene park
- Airport travel
- Library system
- Casinos
- Symphony orchestra
- Gardeners and volunteers
- Greenspace

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

History of Spokane: expo '74, aquifer and river, sprawl and vacancies in city proper, east side versus west side, legacy mining / logging and railroad and their political influence for decades in this city expo gave us ability to change aquifer and river make Spokane really livable. We still live with stigma of east siders. Legacy natural reservoirs are still negative impacts. We have pollution. We are too white we need broad political base

Expo '74, which mirrored out a sense within and beyond Spokane as a little city that could

- The slow then faster increase in population, population drives everything
- Air quality deterioration and solving it to some extent
- Transportation cars versus public transportation, public transportation is still for levers
- Commerce is king! The powerful get what they want – most of the time
- Are there limits? Should there be? Are UGAs described for the good for all
- The GMA is still too weak! Vesting is still the driver almost all the time!

- Geo Wright and Indian wars Qualchau etc.
- Influx of Europeans – fairly homogenous born here until expo '74
- Fairchild AFB
- Universities
- A lot of community leaders
- Parks/outdoors
- Hanford Contamination
- Dams impact good and bad
- Local not publicly traded
- Humility / can do it attitude

- Railroad abandonment in the 80s changed the shipping landscape in the PNW. Trucking took over.
- Roads are falling apart faster due to increased long haul trucking. Increase in greenhouse gases, lack of funding to support new infrastructure

SIRTI – which created a space for collaboration in higher education

Spokane marketplace which was a major step locally in terms of growth, sales, and use of nutritious local foods

- Globalization and farm consolidation
- Food is no longer mostly local
- Farms are no longer owned by family farmers
- Farmland has become a big business investment – sometimes conversion is profitable thing (timberland too)
- Huge amount of farmland conversion

- Family farm size up and industrialization
- Jobs in rural agricultural have gone down which have decimated small town living. No new industries no jobs no growth turned into drug towns

theft of lands and murders of native americans which set up and perpetuated patterns of abuse of peoples often define as less than

- Natural Resource Extraction
- Timber, mining, farming – dirty industry
- Regional service center rail hub
- WWII aluminum airbases
- rail hub collapse, aluminum smelter closing
- changing economy stagnation slow to no growth
- transportation changes horse/buggy trolley interurbans to auto freeways
- state regional system trans changing land use decisions
- reurbanization understanding lost of services replacing aging infrastructure upgrades eminent

- treaties with tribes and subsequent legal actions (non-legal actions)
- construction and operation of CR dams and other non-passable dams
- environmental movement of 60's and 70s
- 74 world's fair
- Passage of RCW 9058 SMA and GMA
- 173-26 WAC adoption 2003
- Federal clean water act end species act
- State of Washington no net loss standard sma and wetlands

- Expo 74 first environmental themed fair progress without pollution
- Sole source aquifer designation
- Conservation futures program

Missoula floods

Great fire of 1889

Pacific railway act

1974 world's fair

Renovation of historic davenport it sparked a renaissance of growth in downtown

Riverfront park renovation

The invention of the automobile

The idea of mobility was centered around moving cars through the region. This car-centric approach has led to a variety of problems related to equity, resources, sustainability, etc., that need to be addressed with modern solutions

- FAFB- significant veteran / military population
- Airport expansion
- Population 2nd largest
- World's fair and sister cities (globally minded)
- Wild fires
- Bloomsday / hoopfest

- Expo
- Put Spokane on the map
- Developed urban park with focus on the Spokane river
- Brought attention to our river and health of regional environment

- Rapid urban sprawl expansion of urban development past 20 years
- Loss of agricultural lands
- Flight from urban core
- Decreased funding for urban services (i.e. bad roads)

- Creation of Spokane university district
- Preservation of heritage buildings
- Quality of parks and open spaces

- Our agricultural past, present, future
- Our medical community and FAFB
- The development of parks

- The development of our highways to link us to recreation and other special places
- Our railroad heritage and how it shaped our community

- Federal aid highway act
- Solidifies the needs of automobiles as the defining concern that governs urban form

- White supremacy
- Land theft and displacement of people
- Property rights over human rights
- Housing as a commodity over housing as a human right

- Silver mining / forestry 8% of budget for parks 1-90 / SIA / FAFB
- 74 worlds fair
- River park square
- Riverpoint u district
- Kendal yards
- Incorporations 2000s
- Conservation futures

- Incorporation of Spokane valley 2003
- Largest incorporation in history to that point 86K
- Created a massive exsuburban city. No real city center, urban services (sidewalks)
- Constant backlog to create identity

- Idaho silver valley mining
- Money moved to Spokane
- Age of elegance buildings followed by population decline
- Expo 74
- Rebuild of city
- Civic price
- 1-90 bisects city
- Fairly slow population growth
- Spokane as a population center for region – destination for school and medicine
- Railroad through regions

- Great missoula flood, channeled scabland, fertile soil for agriculture, Spokane river and spokane rathdrum aquifer
- Stewards of natural environment
- Ecological ethos
- River of great gorge noted as most distinctive valuable feature of natural environment differentiator

- Washington residential land tenant act
- Imbalance of power and access to power
- Criminal justice system
- Natural resource extraction , mining, forestry, hydropower

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

When participants were asked what influences their quality of life, and what they need to thrive, the following responses were discussed:

- Living wage jobs that can support a family.
- Availability of housing, and access to affordable housing for those who need it. Housing proximity to people's workplace was also discussed, along with issues of equity and effectiveness when people can't afford to live where they work. In addition, housing policy to protect people's ability to stay in their homes was also discussed.
- Some expressed how current business regulations are not business friendly and have too many laws and too high of taxes. Examples of business-friendly states like Texas, Wyoming or South Dakota were provided as examples.
- Community engagement was described by some as a current success for Spokane. Others discussed how important community engagement will be in the future to keep the small-town feel, as Spokane grows in population and scale of development. Participants also discussed the need to move away from "us versus them" mentality of the east versus west, or cities versus county arguments.
- Need to bring a more inclusive social equity lens when preparing and applying policy and decision-making.
- Improvements in transportation and infrastructure are important to meet the needs of residents commuting to work, and local industries to thrive in the long term. One example cited 300 miles of state-owned short line railroads that played a key role in moving freight but are too underfunded to maintain their function. In addition, participants discussed whether transportation infrastructure investments should be designed to serve land use policies, or the other way around.
- A greater focus on regional governance getting cities, counties and special districts to work together. Some participants also discussed how local Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) should be more consistent, and even stronger, than they currently are as a certified component of Comprehensive Planning.
- Access to recreation.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Participants began by engaging in a dialogue describing a hope for a future that simultaneously retains the various aspect of rural character, and also has affordable housing and long-term economic prosperity. Some spoke on a desire to retain a close-knit community, with a community identity. In a similar manner, multiple participants expressed a hope for increased diversity and inclusion in the community. Some described a desire for improved roads. Others discussed a desire for an economic landscape that enables entrepreneurs and small businesses to thrive, some added that it's important to balance economic and environmental needs.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants saw value in the synthesis of diverse perspectives, others placed a specific emphasis on the value of planning for and improving infrastructure. Some touched on the value of improving the walkability of cities and neighborhoods, others saw value in the transparency of the growth planning framework.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Some participants said that that it encourages an increasing sense of community identity. Some cited the protections for rural lands and restoration of various wilderness including wetlands. Others mentioned the standardization of review procedures and permit applications, and how that increases certainty for developers. Many spoke of the framework's recognition of urban and rural areas as different regions as a positive. Some said that the growth planning framework promotes cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants discussed a variety of elements of the growth planning framework that do not work well, including:

- "Vesting" of permits or extended urban growth boundaries before appeals challenging those actions have been ruled on by the State.
 - The 1% annual limit on property tax increases which is a direct cause of county funding problems.
 - Insufficient sources of revenue. Some said that the state should pursue an income tax.
 - A number of issues with transportation concurrency.
 - State agencies labeling streams as fish bearing when they in fact do not contain fish.
 - The growth planning framework does not adequately address the location and design of schools.
 - The framework lacks effective enforcement mechanisms.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*
 - A desire for clearer remedies when jurisdictions are found to be out of compliance with the law.
 - A need to address climate change and equity issues, particularly with regards to public health.
 - The need for greater state funding for planning and implementation of plans.
 - Need to reconcile confusion and conflict between different state laws, such as GMA and SEPA.
 - There is a need to integrate special purpose districts into the growth planning framework.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials saw the purpose of the growth planning framework as asking local governments to plan for all aspects of what is needed for the future, including housing, roads, schools, shopping areas, and parks. When describing parts of the growth planning framework that work well, the elected officials liked flexibility for local governments to make choices and the ability of local governments to provide opportunities for economic development and business growth. They also described public engagement successes and how the local government capital facilities planning process has promoted good stewardship of scarce public funds and leveraged private investment.

Regarding what does not work some said that decisions of the Growth Management Hearings Board do not connect with local community desires. Some proposed that GMA appeals should go straight to the superior court or the court of appeals, while others proposed that the members of the growth board be elected rather than appointed by the Governor. Overall, they expressed a desire for more local autonomy and less state regulation. Another thing they said was problematic is that the growth planning framework inhibits effective school district growth. They echoed a desire from the multi-sector workshops that school districts should be able to plan and budget for facilities based on future growth, not just current enrollment.

The elected officials expressed a desire for completion of the north-south highway linking I-90 to the northern parts of the county. They called for greater investment in roads and fixing the inadequacy of impact fees collected for improvements to roads or schools. Some expressed a desire for increased low rise, low density, suburban growth that does not rely on multi-story buildings, and for increased ability to extend sewer and water utilities to schools in the rural area. They also said that in many neighborhoods people do not want density, they want to live next to their neighbors, not on top of them. Some said that directing new growth into urban areas, and the annexation of lands into cities, limits the tax revenue for counties. Some said the annexation process is too permissive.

Some elected officials touched on a hope to increase amenities and lot sizes without feeling crowded. Several said they would like to see more open space, safe neighborhoods, sewer and water, and safe school buildings. Several said they would like the community to enable people to stay long-term, specifically through building more multi-family housing, but were concerned about encouraging too much transient and renting populations because of the negative effects they have been recently experiencing. Some of them mentioned a lack of affordable housing for a variety of income levels.

Mention was made of the new WSU and UW medical schools coming to the University District, but the elected officials said that the region will need to continue to improve health care in the region to meet emerging needs.

When discussing public engagement, elected officials said that they have highly engaged communities. Specific mention was made of the public participation plan that was developed by Spokane Valley to effectively engage their citizens and several said that it is positive that the GMA empowers each local government to create their own process. Some said that successful public engagement happens when meetings are held out in the community, in granges and schools, and don't require people to come to the courthouse or city hall. Some said that it is difficult to get the public to show up when the policies and rules are being considered, but they do show up when a project notice is given.

Others said that specific targeted staff meetings with stakeholders were effective ways to encourage and facilitate new business investment in the community. Some touched on online discussion platforms as a form of effective public engagement.

When asked for additional comments, elected officials expressed a desire to identify the cost impact of GMA to local governments, especially counties. Others asked for an effort to calculate the change in the taxes per capita collected by cities vs. counties.

WHITMAN, GARFIELD, & ASOTIN WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Business Development and Expansion
- Farming
- Ranching
- Forest
- SEL
- Potlatch
- Specr (?)

Higher education placement

- WSU
- WWCC

Modernization of hospitals and supporting agencies

Technological advances

- High speed internet
- Precision agriculture (requiring fewer farm hands)
- GPS
- Drones and more
- Machining fabrication
- Wind and solar advances

SO PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN URBAN AREAS TO ENJOY QUALITY OF LIFE

- Settlement
- Agricultural growth
- Better roads / population consolidation
- Pullman economic growth

Asotin county

- Placement of dams
- Recreation river sedimentation

Attraction of people

Provide adequate population necessary for expansion

Improve quality of life

To win viability

Whitman county and Pullman 100+ university

Brings diversity, economic development, and arts to the region

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Construction of dam system

Community diversity

- Ag
- Industry
- Recreation

Watershed planning

- Barge transportation
- Recreation
- Tourism –tour/cruise
- Stability for economy
- Opportunity for employment

Whitman ounty

- WSU selection Pullman 1889-?
- Railroad comes to Palouse 1880's
- Farming practices, varieties of wheat hybrids synthetic fertilizers
- Snake river navigation system 1950s
- SEL –private industries change economic base from universities only
- GI (post war) boom influx of population
- PUW airport

- 1964 Orval Vogel developed Gaines wheat
- Yields went from 3-40 bn per acre – n one year 90-100 bn per acre
- Future continuing research is on the threshold of another big change in yield potential. Yields are climbing and will continue.
- Volumes will increase!

Transportation networks

- Waterways
- Rail
- Air
- Roads

- Transportation from businesses water/track
- Employment in all sectors expanded
- College access / retraining
- Attraction of diverse population
- Creation of regional medical access

- Passage of GMA
- Creation of comprehensive plan and development regs
- Legalizing marijuana
- Orderly development

- Access to services – health care, child care, education, quality nutrition
- Affordable housing
- Availability of jobs, income
- Diversity
- Work/life balance

Consolidation of population to larger towns has affected tax proceeds (distribution) for local services

Agricultural technology and exportation

- Farming wheat production
- WSU / UI, SEL
- Produce freight movement
- Jobs, technology advancement, improved transportation system

- National lentil festival
- Pullman 4th of July
- County town celebration days
- WSU football season and other events
- Concrete river days
- Flood of 96 Palouse and other towns
- SEL established and other high tech
- WSU research establish in Pullman
- PRH
- Fires 1800s-1900s

Snake river dams

- Allows barge traffic for industrial
- Change in recreation
- Impacts on fish populations
- Anadromous fish
- Change in species
- Fewer but larger farms

- Slackwater / dams
- Timber / tissue mills
- Ammunition plants
- LCSC
- WWCC
- St Joe's and tri-state hospitals

The way the water flows or doesn't flow

Diminishing number of farms and farm families

Construction of the Columbia/ snake river dams

- For flood control
- For irrigation
- For navigation
- For recreation
- For clean energy

Asotin and Garfield counties

Small communities settled around agricultural and natural resources. As economies diversified, larger cities function as business centers, health care centers, educational centers (CC and Universities) major economic drivers.

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

When discussing what influences quality of life in this region, some participants the lack of access to family wage jobs. Others described the housing shortage for low to middle income earners in the region. Some mentioned the lack of effective public transportation systems; others followed up my expressing a desire for increased funding to address capacity and safety issues such as inadequate quality of road repair, narrow roads and bridges, and increased volume of student traffic in route to Pullman.

Several participants said that in order to thrive, broadband internet service is needed because that is critical to improved educational opportunities, job training, emergency responses, and access to health care. Others mentioned need for a local STEM center to help prepare young people in the region for present and future jobs. In addition, some said that a sense of community is needed in order for people in this region and its communities to thrive. Some expressed a desire for downtown revitalization, others for decreasing sprawl. Some discussed the need for the community to embrace diversity.

Some workshop participants cited the inability of local government to provide these services is hampered by unfunded State mandates such as the GMA which contributes to an imbalance between increased costs and increased revenues. Several participants said that the costs of providing local government services is 3% annually while property tax revenue is capped by state law a 1% annually.

Many said that family waged jobs is important to the quality of life, and while the region is in better shape than some others in the State, there is still not enough. Participants said that the region has an extreme shortage of low to middle income housing, both of which are important to a quality of life for many people.

Some said that transportation capacity affects the quality of life – but there is not enough funding. Some said that a bypass around Pullman and improving the road system would improve the quality of life. A participant who is a farmer said that students coming to WSU now all arrive by car and bring a lot of stuff with them, which creates conflicts on the road network with the needs of the farm economy.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

When discussing the desired future, some workshop participants emphasized the importance of access to recreation and employment. Others touched on how education allows families to remain in their communities. Some participants shared how communities can be disrupted when regulations take a one size fits all approach.

Some expressed a desire for job training programs, others for more futuristic planning. Some discussed a need for increased infrastructure funding to prevent sprawl and increases pedestrian access. Others expressed a hope for economic diversification.

Participants said that many people want to be able to stay in their community, have opportunities available for recreation, employment, education, a place to raise families. Also discussed was the need for job opportunities for everyone and new facilities to train people for the future economy. Some participants said the region should work to diversify its economy beyond agriculture to help create

resilience in the case of unforeseen changes in the future. Some participants said it is important to have lots of open space for recreation and wildlife, so maybe there is a need to establish urban growth areas or rings with pedestrian access to groceries, shops, etc. Some said that people here want the opportunity to have animals, even in downtown.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

When describing the purpose and value of the growth planning framework, some participants mentioned the protection of the public interest and the need for planning in order to balance competing needs and interests.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Some workshop participants discussed the flexible and collaborative components of the growth planning framework which they thought are working well, such as the Voluntary Stewardship Program. Others said that the planning framework has improved regional coordination on transportation, citing the Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization which works in conjunction with counties, cities, ports and other governments in the region. Some participants added that state resources to local governments are necessary to be able to accomplish tasks which otherwise could not be completed.

Some participants said that those of us who live in rural communities have different desires for proximity of our neighbors. What is needed are standards that allow each of us to reach our own definition of what we need and want locally. Some said that grassroots efforts work, for example in Asotin where including land owners in the approach to recovery is working.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

When participants were asked what parts of the planning framework do not work well, there were many comments that focused on the difference between the west and east sides of the state, and between counties and cities. Some participants said that the problems that the GMA tries to address on the West side, like sprawl and traffic congestion, do not exist in this part of the state. Others said that counties are different than cities – but counties are fiscally unsustainable under today's planning framework.

Some said that disempowerment of communities occurs when the legislature adopts a law that applies uniformly across the state, even in parts where it is not relevant. Several of them said that GMA was adopted to address a Western Washington problem that does not exist in this part of the state. Participants said that people don't want to be told what to do, so the framework should be flexible enough to allow choices and options.

Also mentioned was how water availability is not well addressed in the planning framework. Others said that it is a problem that there is no state requirement or guidance about how local governments can assess the effectiveness or success of an adopted plan.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

When discussing what is missing or not addressed in the planning framework, workshop participants

shared a number of comments. Many participants said that the State is not living up to its obligations. They said that the State needs to deliver on the promised phase 2 of the GMA, which would provide funding for local governments to comply with the GMA. Some said that the market economy is on a collision course with the inability of local governments to pay not only for planning, but for the services and infrastructure demanded by too much growth, too many people, and too many impacts. Many called for the State to create sufficient and flexible funding sources for needed infrastructure, for example grants that the Port is pursuing to complete broadband improvements.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

During the workshop for elected officials some participants described the purpose and value of the growth planning framework as a basic structure that identifies goals and can be used by multiple state agencies and local government (e.g. counties, cities, ports, PUDs, etc.) to plan. Some agreed that a growth planning framework should provide intent or guidelines that are tested and provable yet allow for flexibility and local adaptability.

When asked what is working well with the current framework, some participants agreed that zoning and planning in Asotin was successful. Others cited Pullman and Whitman county's 2015 tax sharing agreement and joint city/county planning committee, which was created using existing authority of the Interlocal Cooperation Act. They said this is evidence that communication is working well between Whitman County and the City of Pullman. In both Whitman and Garfield counties, there has been a strong interest in brick and mortar downtowns, in order to draw in more customers

When asked what is not working well the elected official participants had one area of agreement – that “one size does not fit all.” They said that edicts coming down from the State do not work. Participants said that having an overall statewide vision is fine, but the state planning framework needs to enable local entities to achieve results that are locally appropriate. They said that local governments need to be able to reflect local circumstances, e.g., soils in Pullman are different than soils in Centralia but the planning framework does not reflect such important differences.

Some said the concentration of growth in urban centers has created some negative impacts on state resident's quality of life. They said that the current framework has made it difficult to enable people to own homes and create personal/family wealth in areas outside cities. Some said that lack of growth is a problem in some rural areas, due in part to farm consolidation which reduces the number of people in farming, which has the ripple effect of fewer people to support retailers in the region's small towns.

Some said that having to revisit the critical areas regulations every six years and the comprehensive plan every eight years is needless. They said that the update cycle should be more flexible perhaps tied to whether growth is actually happening some other significant changes has happened.

Some participants said that while most local governments make a good faith effort to comply with State law, there will occasionally be the need to deal with a “rogue jurisdiction.” They said that someone has to call a ball a ball and a strike a strike, but who or what that entity should be is the question. Some suggested perhaps having a system like what the state auditor does. Or perhaps the planning framework should take the approach of the USDA model of an agency that can provide technical assistance and wants to work toward compliance rather than auditing. There was reluctance to having an agency, like Ecology, making this call. Some suggested that perhaps the Municipal Research and Services Center could serve as an impartial resource to provide technical assistance and advice about whether a potential action would comply with a state requirement.

Some participants aid that bioregions exhibit very different characteristics/issues/needs, and the existing growth planning framework does not address these differences. Several participants said that we cannot continue restricting the access to natural resources (e.g., timber) and that we need to harvest, and plant

and use CRT as a building material. This means reviewing not only what GMA says, but also the Forest Practices Act. They pointed out that Australia has been making decisions and plans based on bio-region concepts which draw on lots of data that is already available, (e.g., the Outback vs. Adelaide is very different.). Participants also said that can we need to be sure we don't exclude nature from our urban spaces – we need to have it inside, not just outside, the urban boundary.

Some participants said that the value (and cost) of land inside the urban growth boundary increases due to the laws of supply and demand, which drives up the cost of everything, so people need other alternatives. Some said that potential solutions would be to remove prohibition on trailer parks and schools outside urban growth areas because those rules prevent meeting needs for housing and education, respectively.

When discussing the public engagement process, participants commented on the difficulties of engagement, and possible solutions to increase participation. The number and complexity of regulations makes it difficult for average people to understand the framework, let alone engage in the planning process. Additionally, the more top down and top heavy a process, they said, the less the public engages.

KING WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

The Ruckelshaus Center's Road map Project Team convened six workshops (three for the multi-sector, three for elected officials) throughout September 2018 for King County. Locations included: University of Washington, Tukwila, North Bend (multi-sector only), and Issaquah (elected officials only). This summary reflects the comments and conversations of all King County workshops.

At the start of the workshops, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

Urban growth- not enough mixed communities where affordable housing is with all levels of economic / social wellbeing

Reduce Sprawl- Too reckless in allowance of so-called planned communities that have not followed GMA

Housing- Too expensive

Economic Development has strained to make sure folks at the lower echelons of the economy are provided equitable opportunities

Historic Preservation – Too much need to me or individualism

Recent spurt in population of Seattle versus suburbs

- WTO protests in 1999
- Eruption of mt. St. Helens in 1980
- Rise of tech industry beginning with Microsoft going “big time” in 1980s
- World War II effect on aircraft industry and rise of Boeing as international player
- Boeing bust of 1970s with “last one out to please turn out lights”
- Magnuson-Stevens fisheries act
- Recognition (then revocation) of Duwamish tribe
- Tribal treaties

Central district and south east Seattle

These communities were formed by history of racial and immigration barriers. Redlining and racial covenants in the CD – only neighborhood where people of color could own property. SES was gateway for immigrant and refugees from Asian, Irish, African, Jews, and East African today

History of neglect and disinvestment created disparities that have yet to be truly addressed

Emergence and influence of tech industries

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Economic shift from dependence on Boeing to high tech industry

- Population growth
- Housing price increase
- General cost of living increases
- Opportunity and access to community growth and sustainability has felt compromised by these events

Land taken from Duwamish for exploitation and settlements

Environmental degradation and genocide

- Arrival of Yesler party
- Opening of an aircraft company
- Beginning of the digital revolution

WWII -Boeing

Tech sector

Massive population growth and development in urban areas

Homelessness inequality lack of affordable housing

Superfund designation of Duwamish river valley

Lake WA ship canal/Ballard locks

Today the challenges are growth and properties not being shared by those who have built this neighborhood. Planning needs to engage and be accountable and access to opportunity for marginalized communities

Superfund designation of Duwamish river valley

Lake WA ship canal / Ballard locks

Boom and bust growth in spurts development of Seattle over the decades of the 20th Century

Displacement of tribes

- Major engineering projects
- Denny re-grade (Jackson street)
- Locks
- Filling in the Duwamish tidal basin and building seawall
- Lowering water level in Washington
- Infill and reclaiming of land on coast

Development of regional water system – clean water for future of region

Ballard locks recreation and commerce

- Development of 15 and 190 and 50 bridge
- Metro king county for treatment
- Development of local water and sewer system

Boom in population in region / tech boom

Microsoft amazon etc.

1962 Seattle world's fair- it launched a more outward-facing view here and directed us toward innovation

The coincidence that people like Gates and Allen built their companies here, focusing on tech here

Dan Evans' decision in 1975 to welcome immigrants from Vietnam, launching a tradition of welcoming immigrants that affects us a lot now (1/2 our growth is immigration)

Japanese internment

- Tribal treaties / colonization of area
- Tech and other industry bringing many new workers to region in past 5-10 years becoming fastest growing county in the nation
- Voters turning down light rail / mass transit investments

Boeing collapse (60s)

- 70s energy crisis
- Earth day SEPA

SMA

State land use bill proposal (70s)

- Joe King et al
- Seattle neighborhood planning late 90s

- Tech boom
- Provided strong tax base
- Raised cost of living
- Made folks money hungry

Freeway construction

Auto dominance proliferated

Streets got loud

Air quality diminished

GMA laid the groundwork for focusing growth into urban centers

100 yrs. gold rush and establishment of Seattle as land of opportunity

Regrade of city

10 yr. Financial collapse / real estate investment from overseas / property values

25 yr. 90s Seattle growth boom dot com

50 yr. economic downturn / Boeing / last person leaving Seattle turn out the lights

100 yr. birth of 20th century Seattle / smith tower / pike place / Denny regrade shift from rural to urban

Local establishment of international businesses Boeing Microsoft Starbucks amazon

GMA establishment

Lake Washington / lake ship canal / Ballard locks development

Denny Regrade

- Raised awareness
- Created constituencies
- Changed political thinking
- Broadened perspectives about growth and impacts

Land owners / developers 100 years ago couldn't agree how to align Seattle's grid system

Decision of Seattle not to accept federal funds and expand mass transit in the 1970s has slowed us down in many ways

City center growth along with high population growth to the outer edges airplane manufacturing

These events create problems with infrastructure

- The Chinese and Japanese explosions
- Redlining
- The rise of logging, farming, and coal
- Boeing
- The decline of coal
- The transformation of forest products to agricultural producers
- The eve of highway construction
- The construction of the light rail system
- The contraction of the multi-modal system
- The booms and busts
- The expansion of amazon
- Global warming and its associated impacts
- The internationalization of the county's population
- The inability of government finance to keep with community needs

Development of NW forest plan in 1990s as an anecdote to forest management arguments in the 1980s

Economic crash and housing bubble burst in 2008 and its impact on housing jobs in WA

NW willingness among environment advocates to oppose fossil fuel testimonials or rise of thin green line

Population growth post WWII to present

Business expansion: Boeing
Microsoft amazon

Introduction of many small cities i.e. Covington

Red-lining and racial segregation of Seattle neighborhoods

The affordable care act with its expansion of Medicaid in Washington gave health insurance to 700,000 additional Washingtonians

We are responsible to lead the nation "we are the greenest region in the richest nation in the history of the world" Alan burning, highlight

We must innovate publicly

We can monetize this expertise

- Indigenous cultures
- Evolution of the Puget sound ecosystem
- Growth! Stead since the 1850s
- Recently, Amazon and the economic disparities that have resulted from its growth here

The straightening of the Duwamish river

Technology sector growth in the region

Euro / American colonization – settlement of this region – displacement of native populations

10- 2008 crash

25- chinook salmon ESA listing

50- Boeing

100- Curtis photography

Change to transportation system increased transportation pressures

- Development patters – sprawl and affects
- Impact (increased) on natural environment
- Change to demographics of region age and race
- Elected officials depending on who has been elected different events affected region
- Historical 100 yrs. – industrialization and cars
- 50 yrs. development
- 10-25 yrs. tech boom

Transportation: building events in public transportation 15, light rail, bike trails and greenways

Commerce / business: rise and fall of Weyerhaeuser, rise of Boeing co, rise of amazon, google in king county

Education: UW establishment and growth

Immigration, population growth: rapid increase in population densification

Environmental / tribal leadership: emerging recognition of tribal leadership on many environmental issues, city and county leadership on climate change (nationally)

We continue to play out the natural economic and cultural consequences of our economic engines

Construction of interstate highway system
1-5 / 1-90 / 1-405

- Boeing bust in late 60s
- Rapid growth following Boeing bust (1985-current)
- Perception created by juxtaposition of rapid growth following period of decline
- Passage of ST1 ST2 ST3
- Failure to pass light rail in earlier decades
- Passage of growth management act

Rapid unregulated growth of technology-based money economy with little investment by these industries in local social services

The past 60 years have been a time of transition from natural resource based and blue-collar manufacturing jobs to technology based and service industries

100 years railroads were allowed to place tracks and take ownership in locations that would split Seattle and create movement barriers

Channeling the Duwamish -graining a port, loosing estuary

Entrepreneurialism from chief Seattle and early white settlers through Boeing, Microsoft, and amazon

Bullitt Center / living building challenge showcase for world

Front and centered inspiring integration of environmental movement and racial justice

- Boeing bust 1970
- Forward thrust and Nhood / activism
- Pike place market effort and community focus
- Seattle grows
- GMA 1990 SMA 1970 SEPA
- Framework for addressing growth and environmental issues
- About 2000-2010 Seattle encourages rapid growth without planning or infrastructure investment
- Amazon Expedia Russell
- Our current housing and transportation crisis

Each event unfolded there came an influx of migration and people from other regions of the country

Each migration diluted the county's natural habitants as the migrant brought their pre-existing values and culture with them

As populations grew the dominant forces reflected the prevailing values of the remainder of the U.S.

Moving from agrarian community to more industrial then to a technology focus economy

Climate change, ocean acidification, and other impacts of global warming (weirding) will influence how we plan for growth, transportation, and infrastructure

Sound transit will develop 2 light rail stations in shoreline slated to begin operation in 2024

Explosive growth and associated housing cost increase are exacerbating historic inequities throughout the region

Transportation systems causing displacement and gentrification

Post ww2 growth in n Seattle and shoreline filled in wetlands with little consideration for where water would go = flooding and retrofit issues

Amazon and influx of tech companies into Seattle / SLU

Employment growth and influence on housing / transit

Transit expansion

- failed monorail
- sound move
- forward thrust
- st2 / st3

Growth of the wine industry
-jobs -tourism

Waves of growth / development in the 80s/90s now and impact on loss of green space / farmland / forest lands

- Decisions by Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, and other major business players to locate and expand in Puget Sound
- Forward thrust
- Seattle / Seattle area as a national / global player through world's fair, goodwill games, etc.
- Boeing corporate headquarters moved to Chicago and amazon HQ2 announcement

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Redlining- Chinese exclusion act – systemic control of who settled where

Japanese internment

- 1968 high capacity transit ballot measure fails in Seattle = negative
- 1990 GMA passed by legislature = positive
- 1993 sound transit created = positive
- 1998 Tim Eyman initiatives begin = negative

Effects of planning decisions on climate change and health

In last 20 years

- Growth management law resulted in king county and cities establishing urban growth boundaries

In last 30 years

- Microsoft, amazon, and other tech companies located here

Japanese internment in WWII and earlier Chinese Exclusion Act – as a result, the region has been forced to come to grips with immigration, esp. from Asia

Regional location gives us access to world trade. Supports industries big and small.

Failed forward thrust

- lack of transportation options
- forced automobile dependence

King county population growth

Growth of the tech sector and related jobs / population growth

Growth has impacted infrastructure cost of living and natural environment

City of shoreline incorporated in 1995, historic suburb is evolving into more urban environment

- City of Seattle's decision, post WWII, not to expand; thus ceding the development controls to King Co.
- The incorporation of multiple suburban cities to resist land use controls from king county
- Support for transit
- Sound move
- ST2
- ST3
- Seattle transportation benefit district –increased bus
- New options to get around

- Software / Technology
- Microsoft
- Amazon
- Boeing
- Expedia
- F5
- Biotech

Since 1991:

- Tons of people have moved to city
- In 2001 it was great because the new people encouraged a lot of new stores / services / activities
- Now tons more folks have moved here, and their buildings are killing the mom and pop stores and restaurants and making traffic a nightmare

Degradation of the Puget sound

- Aerospace
- Logging
- Highway 18
- Affordability (drive to qualify)
- Development of Amazon, Microsoft bus routes. (allow to live anywhere and get to work)
- Environmental regulation – water and sewer district expansion
- Annexations in late 90s
- Family housing options (multibedroom / affordable)
- Availability of housing options
- Stability of council
- Location to retail
- Trails
- Parks
- Live in less dense community
- Adverse to growth
- Desirable school districts
- Homestead / family lands.

Development of railroads through Puget Sound

Creation / expansions of Port of Seattle / Port of Tacoma

- Enacting GMA
- ST3
- SEPA
- High Tech Boom / Dot Com
- Location of military installations

Boeing pulling out in the 70s – “would the last person leaving Seattle turn off the lights”

Depleted the landscapes' ability to operate healthily in natural cycles

Brought huge wealth here over and over

Brought our natural systems to the brink

Created awareness of ecosystem functions and values

- Settlers displacing indigenous peoples
- Settlers physically transforming the landscape in every way
- Extractive industries
- Boeing
- Microsoft
- The UW
- Amazon
- The GMA
- Shorelines
- Critical areas administration

In the region:

- Light rail has slowly come and its changes will be huge for growth patterns and clustering populations
- We're only starting to feel that change

Destruction of neighborhoods for highways

Mainly low-income communities – communities of color

Development policies that encourage and exacerbate homelessness

- Population growth in city
- Technology focus in downtown Seattle
- Homelessness
- Rise in economic diversity –have and have nots
- Increasingly diverse cultural communities

Rise of climate change impacts

- Increased flooding, severe weather events
- Increased number of hot, dry summers.
- Rise of social unrest – protests

Planning process that don't include the voices of the newer demographics in the region

Planning for the "status quo" when the status quo has and is changing

How past events affect present

- Created appreciation and value for quality of life
- Raised standard of living for many but not all
- Demonstrated a different growth model for other areas

- Boeing bust then boom in region growth
- Governance not keeping up with growth: transportation, public safety, economic development
- Multiple ethnicities increase

Major highway investment
Massive commutes

- Boeing
- Jobs
- Microsoft
- Tech
- Amazon
- Housing
- Economic opportunities

Regional decisions on high-capacity transit and connecting Washington on one hand but lack of infrastructure investment on the other

Change in agricultural land (loss)

Microsoft and high tech

- Restrictive zoning – exclusionary zoning in the City of Seattle
- The suburbanization of poverty with the highest concentration of low income households in SKC
- Voting against transportation infrastructure and we are now doing what we could have done ages ago

100 + years: mountains / volcano forming –river migration / formation

10-50 yr.: development of floodplains, lahar areas, liquefiable soils, steep slopes

Gold rush -> Boeing -> Microsoft -> amazon

Population up

Geologic and environmental awareness down

- Population has grown tremendously
- Cost of living has sky-rocketed
- Increase in homelessness
- Recreation amenity development

- European settlers
- WWII
- highway system
- GMA
- High growth
- Rise of high-tech sector
- Environmental movement

Our region was too late getting a regional transit system (multi-modal)

Our rapid growth has created an affordability crisis

- Introduction / expansion of mass transit i.e. link light rail, rapid ride
- Incorporating king county cities
- Expansion of international airport (SeaTac)
- Increasing growth, lack of supporting infrastructure, lack of community resources– place making as communities get disconnected by transportation infrastructure

Lowering of lake Washington (creating new, difficult-to-develop lots)

Increase in big business / employment opportunities

Coal mining \ logging routes
GMA huge residential growth
after 1997 annexation
Lack of connectivity to jobs

Changes in urban development
/ housing

Red-lining districting zone

History of Seattle: timber,
maritime, railroad, emergence
as tech center

Tech jobs: prosperity high
housing costs

Gentrification

Major population growth /
changing demographics

Amazon as making such a
strong impact on Seattle

Westward expansion and
European settlement of
Washington historic red-lining
annexation of unincorporated
king county into Burien and
Seattle

- Establishment of city land use patterns in 1890s -1960s (well before GMA, regional planning, etc.)
- Lack of high density living in Seattle

Howard Hanson dam – 1968

Transition from agricultural to
industrial (Boeing) 70s -90s

Streamline sales tax -2005
gutted city budget

The Relationship with Alaska
as a provisionary and home of
their fishing fleet

- Filling Duwamish tribe flats and straightening the river
- Denny regrade – Jackson street regrade

- Ballard locks and canals between lake Washington and sound

- Building the seawall and filling in or reclaiming land in Elliot bay

- Increase in population

- Decrease in housing affordability

- Increase in cost of living

- Impact of climate change on weather patterns

- More snow in winter, forest fires, smoky august in western Washington

- Loss of local rails

- World's fair

- Metro

- Floating bridges

- I-5

- South lake union renovation

- Rebuilding the Elliot bay seawall

- Increase in traffic adversely affecting community

- Lack of affordable housing

- As a bedroom community maple valley lacks living wage jobs

Annexations (and associated
municipal responsibilities)

Sound transit investments

Transportation study '86

- City of maple valley – incorporation 1998

- Regional O Microsoft / tech industry

- Maple valley area- trail construction / open space dedication

- WWII

- The Boeing bust

- World's fair

- Gates and Allen returning from NM

- 707

- Boeing MacD merger

- Amazon

- Vision 2020

- Ike's transportation investments

- Bonneville Power

- Boeing (boom and bust)

- Microsoft

- Amazon

- Boeing – Initiation of Aerospace

- Statehood
- Klondike Gold Rush
- Bonneville Power / Columbia Hydro Projects

- Amazon
- Micro housing
- Homelessness

- Housing boom
- Immigrants & refugees (re)settling into s. king county
- Transportation has to be re-thought

Redlining, segregation

Land use impacted by mining, timber, continues to shape available land today

Available land for recreation created attractive draw for outdoor recreation employers

Adoption of GMA

Forced relocation of native peoples into reservations

- Stock market
- 911
- Retirement
- Growing population

Need for transit-oriented development TOD

Frustration, polarizing views anxiety

- property owners
- city staff/ officials
- “new comers”
- “old timers”
- service providers

Tech industry (employment)

- Creations of national parks, wilderness areas
- Protects large tracts of land
- Provides chance for folks to get out
- Environmental benefits

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Traffic
- Communities moving further into s. king county
- College has to be responsive to the changing communities

Forward thrust (failure of initiatives)

Formation of king county metro and sound transit

Migration waves

- E Europe
- n/e Africa
- e/s Asia

The transformation from a resource base to a high tech, aerospace, research, and recreation center of the west

Lots of cars going everywhere all the time

High paying jobs

Timber

Fisheries

- Importance of public lands
- Quality of life
- Ecological health
- Recreation economy

- Microsoft 1990s amazon recently
- Logging
- Mass transit and automobile
- Boom in technology sector
- Exponential population growth and traffic congestion

- Transportation port of Seattle, interstates 1-90 1-5
- Ferries
- Bridges (520 / floating)
- SeaTac airport

- 405 creation
- Totem Lake
- Redevelopment to mixed use of Kirkland urban and totem lake
- Redevelopment of Kirkland downtown
- Downzoning of SF/MU to only SF
- Absorption of Finn Hill / Juanita
- Houghton Planning Council / Veto rights
- Commitment to public transit facilities / park-n-ride / BRT

- Boeing Corp
- Failure of 1960s
- Transit plan levy

Railroad corridors

East to west and north to south

Glaciers shaped an amazing landscape with lakes, rivers, and mountains

1970s clean water act

Construction of I-90 over Snoqualmie pass

GMA

Transition from forest and agriculture to urban

- State / federal highways
- Boeing / Microsoft / amazon
- Port
- Weyerhaeuser

- I-90 and 520 Bridges
- Boeing
- Microsoft

Economic boom and bust's population growth

Puget Sound Initiative

Cost of living / housing cost
Taxes

- Microsoft
- Amazon
- Economic recession
- Oil embargo
- New stadiums
- Population growth

Infrastructure affects growth patterns

Transition from rural to suburban

- MSFT founding
- Passage of school bond measure for LWSD (after two failed attempts)
- Upgrade of ballfields at Redmond ridge
- Passage of nickel transportation funding measure
- Booming wine industry in Woodinville
- Redmond ridge built and surrounding
- Brightwater wastewater treatment plant

Interstate highway system
I-90 I-5 bridges, viaducts
tunnels

Maple Valley

- Incorporated in 1997 (20 yrs. ago) no true downtown, planning challenges
- Major growth in the last 10-15 years –traffic congestion, high housing costs, old vs. new
- Tahoma school district – top notch! –growth (people move to put kids in this district, traffic congestion)

Industry and manufacturing

Aerospace industry

Ice vehicles and freeways

- The great recession in 2007-2012 (approx.)
- Recession starting in late '70s
- Construction building boom we're currently in
- Unprecedented job growth in the last 5 years
- Tech boom of last
- GMA: creating growth boundary lines and limiting / reducing sprawl
- WWII industrialization / shipbuilding
- Logging boom which impacted environment then decline which impacted economy –Boeing

Establishment of the Pacific science center

Increase growth plus failure to invest in transportation infrastructure equals nation leading traffic congestion and associated stress

Influx of people from outside the region is impacting a slower paced quality of life. This is taxing the natural environment and the historical buildings and neighborhoods. Older people are being taxed out.

- Tech sector growth
- Amazon
- Microsoft
- Etc.
- Population growth economic pressures

Technology changes everything
Everything is connected

More people (and jobs) more technology more traffic

Greater / more difference in have and have nots, information

Trade national and international

Increased understanding of environmental harm

- Economic traffic density
- Amazon Microsoft
- Light rail

Microsoft Duvall grows as a bedroom community

Decline of railroad

2000s tremendous population growth

Exponential increase in recreational use of Snoq. River "no fish in the river" no infrastructure to support recreational and other visitors

WWII military / Boeing

Flooding and flood management affect where development can occur and where it should be removed

Change in transport goals toward complete streets

Makes the movement of freight more difficult

Traffic congestion is negatively affects local and regional quality of life

Maple valley is almost built-out and the urban growth boundary needs to expand east so the city can grow

WSDOT needs to add capacity to SR-169 and SR-516

- 20+ years ago maple valley incorporated as a city
- Traffic / transportation capacity has become an issue
- GMA / UGB needs to expand east

- 1960: the idea of the container revolutionized the shipping industry Seattle was an early adopter

- Dramatic change in logistics industry
- Cheap and safe transport makes consumer goods cheaper

- Lots of warehouses, e-commerce

1920 state forced downtown property owners to sell land for highway 202 buildings move on down field for septic 90 years later, city is vacant

10 years:

- Snoqualmie ridge development
- Failure of SR18 from Hobart Road to I-90
- Failure of SR 18 / i-90 intersection
- New MSHS @ 70 '(mega school)
- Historic downtown Snoqualmie renovation
- Northwest RR museum improvements RR history campus
- Rebuilding of PSE Falls power plan – flooding reduction due to lower dam

25 years

- Approval of Snoqualmie ridge growth from 1600 population to 13,500 population
- 1990 Flood
- Corp of engineers 205 projects to widen mouth of Snoqualmie river at falls to reduce flooding
- 26% of frequently flooded homes elevated

Small town / main streets revitalizing

Seattle, Snoqualmie, north bend, Duvall, maple valley, carnation, fall city

- Land conservation in king county (200,000 acres conserved in mountains to sound greenway since 1990)

- Growth Management Act

Tech industry boom

- 1869 trading post "the landing" became fall city
- Early 1900's people from Seattle come to fall city to hung, fish
- 1930s "I can walk on the backs of fish" on raging river
- 1990 GMA preserve environment protect farm and forest

Railroads regional trails

Point Elliot treaty 1855

Failure to pass forward thrust vote for subway in 1960s

Sound transit today

Growth of employment centers leads to longer commutes

Significant population growth

Gold rush, Boeing, current tech boom...

190 Floating bridge, transportation improvements spur growth

First Nations Salish tribes

- High-tech growth and increased urban density fuels drastic increase in housing costs
- Increase in housing costs causes housing instability and homelessness

Microsoft, telecommunications and more recently amazon, google, Facebook, etc. driving "high-tech" waves of growth

U.S. military presence source of many current communities of color

Boeing, ports of Tacoma, Seattle and Everett, timber rove "middle class" growth

About 100 years ago:

- Legislation enabling counties to establish ports as economic development agencies. Goal: allow the public to take the waterfront back from timber and rail companies

- Washington is the 4th most trade dependent state in the nation

- 40% of all jobs in the state dependent on trade

Interstate system ports / commerce

By attracting high rates of employment and population growth

Early

- Seaport
- Logging
- Gateway to Alaska / Asia

100- Boeing

40 years

- Microsoft
- Amazon
- Google

End of reliance on timber harvest / lumber mill based local economy and ensuing decisions on growth

World's fair held in Seattle in 1962

- Great Recession
- Growth Management Act
- 9-11 layoffs
- Property values mental health gentrification homelessness
- Loss of homes/ jobs
- Washington mutual
- Urban growth areas established

10-year amazon -> Seattle neighborhoods

25 GMA - SEPA etc. legislature granted tax breaks to unbridled job and population growth

50 Microsoft, Amazon

100 European settlement, coal and lumber, Boeing

Sound transit (HCT)

Red-lining and discrimination

Amazon

Growth management

North bend easy to get to: hard to leave

"too far out"

Water moratorium

Economic depression

Economy up jobs up discover up -25 years of pent up demand and property owner "waiting"

- Public lands DNR KC State parks USFS
- Local jurisdictions

Boeing layoffs

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

In small and large group conversations, participants shared their insights regarding what they or the communities in which they work and live need to thrive.

Economic opportunity: Many workshop participants broadly spoke of the need for jobs; others specifically mentioned access, regardless of education level, to jobs which would allow people to support themselves and afford housing without having a long commute. Some participants talked about the need for more small businesses which create more interesting, vital neighborhoods.

Natural environment: In terms of the environment, many participants talked about the need for thriving salmon and orca populations, while others mentioned recreation opportunities and daily access to nature, especially amid development and growth. Participants frequently mentioned the influence of climate change and the affects of smoke, sea level rise, less snow pack on the quality of life in the region. Some also talked about the need to plan for climate change.

Parks & green space: Some described the need for access to parks, playgrounds, and green spaces for kids to play in.

Equity and social justice: To support thriving communities, many participants voiced a need to look at development decisions through an equity lens to better address needs of all parts of the population and provide equitable access to resources. A few mentioned the need for continued govt leadership on equity and social justice and community engagement.

Aging population: Participants observed that an aging population will need more healthcare and transit options, as well as support to afford to stay in their homes given escalating real estate values and property taxes.

Healthcare: With respect to healthcare, participants specifically identified the need for community health services.

Housing: Many workshop participants talked about the need for diverse and affordable housing options. In terms of diversity, participants mentioned accessory dwelling units (ADU), duplex, and triplexes. With respect to affordability, participants described the need for housing to be accessible not just for people with low-incomes, but also for the “missing middle” and seniors.

Transportation: In terms of influence on the quality of life, many participants expressed frustration regarding congestion, time spent commuting, and the distance between jobs and affordable housing. Some talked about the need for pedestrian oriented streetscapes and communities and increased funding for building diverse and quality transit options. A few noted that increased density may be required to support more diverse transit options.

Education: Participants described the importance of a strong and well-funded public education system, from Kindergarten through university. Some talked about the role of increased educational opportunities in conjunction with greater economic opportunities; others identified the need for quality education to be accessible to all segments of the population. A few talked about the challenges of siting schools and providing educational opportunities in areas where growth is happening.

Infrastructure: With respect to infrastructure, many talked about the need for money and resources to make much needed improvements; and a few talked about communities constrained or missing

economic opportunities due to inability to make infrastructure improvements. Some also noted the importance and influence of hydropower in the region.

Governance: Some participants described the need for elected officials to make bold decisions; others talked about the importance of a transparent and responsive government.

Community: Community attributes listed by workshop participants include spaces and opportunities for people to interact in daily lives, for people to safely move among work and living/residential communities, and for communities where people know their neighbors. Participants also described the need to embrace density and diversity.

Resources/Finance: As noted in many of the above paragraphs, participants described needs for increased funding and resources to support thriving communities. Some specifically identified the need for changes to the tax structure to effectively address challenges of growth.

Participants also listed the importance of arts, access to fresh and healthy foods, civic engagement, and emergency services in thriving communities.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

In reflecting on the desired future, workshop participants described many of the same attributes listed in response to the above questions—the need for affordable housing, healthcare, education, etc.

Additional values and responses that emerged in response to this question include:

- Need for investments in clean, renewable energy
- To feel a sense of autonomy and choice in determining one's lifestyle
- Development of job centers with living wage jobs outside of downtown Seattle
- More regional approaches to planning
- Increased integration of trees and green spaces in urban areas
- For our children and grandchildren to be able to find living wage jobs and afford to live in the area
- Vibrant cities near agricultural areas
- Increased respect for ecological knowledge
- Increased linkages between community planning and health outcomes
- People have options to rent or own, for various family sizes and needs
- Increased investment in suburbs > people can work and live here
- Quality outdoor experiences
- Safety – able to enjoy community
- Sense of belonging
- Affordable housing
- Life expectancy not determined by zip code
- Prepared for climate change

- Trails/open space
- Clean reliable transit
- Political will & resources
- Democracy
- Vibrant diverse cities in close proximity to farmlands.
- High capacity transit to connect people with jobs, housing, services and recreation.
- We need to recognize the value of ecosystems services and become world leaders on this.
- We need to implement the plans for salmon recovery.
- We need our school system to create citizens, not just athletes, scholars or workers.
- Access to open spaces
- We need to recruit more jobs spread throughout the region to cut down on some of the trips in the rural area.
- These needs to be living wage jobs.
- We need green spaces inside and between urban areas, with links by trails for pedestrians and bikes.
- We need to integrate nature and trees into all development so that people aren't required to live in a sterile environment.
- We need to think about a stronger regional approach to planning that addresses local needs but can more effectively get us to a future that we desire.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Many workshop participants described the value of a system for making informed decisions regarding tradeoffs between economic growth and the environment. Some described the value of the planning framework as a process to efficiently use public resources and make infrastructure investments; others pointed to the processes for engaging with the public or coordinating with other jurisdictions to address regional issues. Participants also expressed appreciation for the environmental protections, concentration of growth in urban areas, and the resources and expertise provided to small jurisdictions. Workshop participants also noted that the framework provides some predictability and certainty for private investments.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

During small group and large group conversations, participants shared their perspectives on elements of the growth planning framework which work well for their communities. Responses included:

- It establishes a framework to spell out values to help guide decisions.
- It balances the competing interests and needs.
- It has a strong environmental protection component which is needed and also relies on local government to do most of the planning.
- It forces us to look across jurisdictional boundaries and work together to address issues that are

bigger than any one jurisdiction.

- It creates some certainty for people to know if they wish to invest in a home or a business,
 - It is protecting open space, recreation areas, farms and forests.
 - It does prevent sprawl and force local jurisdictions to plan.
 - Achieves a clear demarcation line between urban and adjacent rural areas.
 - Making sure provisions of needed public goods like water and sewer.
 - A system to enable tradeoffs between economic growth and environmental quality.
 - The system highlights that we are now stewards for meeting the long terms needs of society.
 - Urban growth areas as a growth management tool is working well.
 - The protection of agricultural and natural resource lands
 - The frequent update cycle.
 - The requirement to plan for the long term.
 - The 14 planning goals are good goals.
 - GMA calls for affordable housing.
 - The increase in proximity between housing and transit in some areas.
 - There is a clear demarcation line between urban and adjacent rural areas.
- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Workshop participants had a variety of comments regarding aspects of the growth planning framework that do not work sufficiently well. The recurring themes include:

- The framework does not do enough to promote the construction of affordable housing.
 - Insufficient production of affordable housing.
 - Ineffective organization of housing and transit developments in a complimentary and coordinated way.
 - Does not adequately address the homelessness crisis.
 - Need to crack down on real estate speculation.
 - Need job creation in areas geographically close to affordable housing measures.
 - Some added that the discrepancy between job and housing location leads many people to drive through rural areas on their commutes between urban areas.
 - Need long term generational housing.
- The framework lacks sufficient teeth to hold people accountable: the enforcement mechanisms are too weak.
 - Concurrency issues: some chosen level of service “e”; state not required to add capacity to roads/comply with concurrency.
- The framework has not yielded enough infrastructure improvements and expansions.
 - Some touched on the need to prioritize infrastructure development in areas with more growth.
- The framework has Insufficient funding to comply with mandates.

- Some specifically mentioned infrastructure improvements and statewide internet.
- Others specifically mentioned transportation.
- The framework has Ineffective taxation.
 - Need a statewide increment tax.
 - Need a state-wide income tax.
 - Tax revenue issues inhibit infrastructure spending.
 - The annexation process removes major sources of tax revenue for counties.
- The framework is lacking in terms of flexibility:
 - This leads to harmful constraints on school districts and school improvements.
 - Some expressed a desire for allowing school siting outside of the urban growth boundary
 - This also leads to some people misinterpreting the GMA as forcing them to connect to sewer systems.
 - This leads to a lack of variance in regional infrastructure development.
- The framework does not adequately work with or include tribes in developing and implementing policy.
- Work culture issues:
 - There is an insufficient number of planners at the state and local level.
 - The work culture does not sufficiently integrate the plans at different levels.
 - Insufficiently professionally diverse inputs for planning; need a wider variety of perspectives and experts.
- The framework contains overly burdensome and overly complicated regulations.
- Most people lack the time and knowledge to effectively engage in the planning process.
- Insufficient public outreach/education...
 - About the GMA.
 - About local planning and implementation.
 - About the full cost of land use decisions.
 - Utilizing social media.
- The framework illuminates a need more civics education.
- The framework does not coordinate interjurisdictional projects sufficiently well.
 - Discrepancies between watershed planning and water/sewer/stormwater system planning.
 - Need to ensure that the state capital budget aligns with local planning.
 - Port districts have difficulty coordinating with nearby jurisdictions.
- As a result of the framework's incentive structures, most job growth has been concentrated in King County and Seattle, while other parts of the state are left behind in terms of economic development.
 - Some mentioned that inconsistent impact fees funnel land development to certain jurisdictions.

- The collection of laws that make up the framework do not coordinate well.
- The framework fails to address climate change.
 - Some added that additions to the framework that deal with climate change should focus on building green infrastructure and job creation in green sectors.
 - Some called for a carbon tax.
- The framework does not adequately pay attention to watersheds.

Additional comments include:

- Available information is not released in a timely manner.
- Does not address health concerns.
- SEPA has reduced trust, need neighborhood scale plans to revive trust.
- The framework needs to do a better job at planning around [anticipated] changes in density.
- The framework lacks promotions for diversity and inclusion.
- The framework fails to adequately address condo liability issues.
- The framework needs to address condo conversion laws.
- The GMA Essential Public Facilities provisions do not go far enough to protect existing facilities.
- Costs and benefits of growth are unevenly distributed. Investment in TOD areas and regional centers results in the pushing out of people into suburban areas.
- The framework lacks sufficient provisions to assess and account for social, economic, and environmental impacts of development in a case by case basis.
- Under the growth planning framework, local governments do not spend enough time updating and streamlining development codes.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*
 - School planning linked to GMA
 - Increased consideration of hazards/hazard mitigation in planning
 - Disaster planning, emergency management planning and climate change resiliency.
 - Equity and social justice lens in our policy making process.
 - How growth impacts community health.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials began by discussing their understanding of the purpose and value of the growth planning framework. Some described the framework as a tool to achieve sustainable development with amenity and equity for all. Others saw the framework as a means to minimize the negative impacts of growth. Some saw the framework's purpose as coordinating planning to ensure the protection and preservation of natural environments and agricultural lands. Some touched on the benefits to cities that having a structured planning framework provides for land use and transportation. Others described the value of forcing local governments to think long-term and large scale, as to ensure a

sustainable healthy environment for future generations. Others spoke on the framework's ability to ensure public investments and resources are used efficiently and effectively. Some mentioned the value that framework brings by ensuring effective coordination among various jurisdictions, agencies, and levels of government. Others discussed how the framework creates a structured decision-making process that ensures predictability in terms of long-term growth. Others touched on how the framework utilizes public involvement to increase transparency. Some spoke on the benefits of concentrating growth in areas with infrastructure to support that growth; some added that the framework ensures growth, services, and infrastructure all expand in proportional terms. Others touched on the framework's purpose to ensure that growth does not result in a reduction in quality of life. Some mentioned the framework's purpose is to reduce urban sprawl.

Elected officials then moved to discuss what aspects of the growth planning framework work well. Some mentioned that the framework makes local government more accessible to the public. Others discussed how growth boundaries have led to denser, more efficient land use in our cities. Some described how managing stormwater is a particular challenge, but the framework forces governments to address it. Others touched on the inter-jurisdictional coordination and regional level planning that the framework creates; as well as the predictability that the framework lends. Some discussed the impacts of critical areas protections on stabilizing slopes and minimizing water quality impacts. Others touched on the overall benefit of having a largescale structure for individual cities to all follow; in a related vein, some described the benefits of having a strategic plan to work from. Some discussed the importance of focusing growth along transit. Others touched on the preservation aspects of the framework, including open spaces, farms, and forests. Some described how the framework has changed the public discourse: improving synthesis of cities' goals and difficult conversations around school siting. Others touched on the benefits of minimizing urban sprawl.

Elected officials then moved to discuss what aspects of the growth planning framework do not work well. A multitude of participants described the framework's insufficient efforts to address the need for affordable housing. A multitude of attendees touched on property tax issues, specifically the 1% annual increase cap which drastically reduces county tax revenue over time; some specified this is because the 1% cap cannot keep up with inflation. A multitude of participants described a severe lack of state funding and local and regional infrastructure to keep up with growth. A multitude of participants called for increased public transportation expansion; as well as commercial transportation expansion to get commercial traffic off of non-urban roads. A multitude of attendees echoed annexation issues from other workshops, describing how the annexation process takes away the major sources of tax revenues for counties.

Continuing with other aspects that do not work well, some touched on the limited effectiveness of impact fees. Others described how the concentration of growth increases land value and thus housing cost. Some discussed concurrency issues in the Seattle area, calling for increased funding. Others reiterated issues expressed at others workshops regarding school siting issues. Some also reiterated issues expressed at others workshops regarding discrepancies between housing development, transit development, and job opportunities: the three must be geographically close. Others reiterated issues expressed at others workshops regarding a need for more state funding to meet the framework's expectations, some continued to echo ideas from other workshops, calling for Tax increment Financing. Some touched on the public fear or communities losing their character due to growth, which leads to NIMBYism and anti-GMA sentiment; some proposed increased education to the public about the growth planning framework to combat this. Others discussed discrepancies between areas of growth and infrastructure, how areas where growth is happening do not have the infrastructure to support it.

Some called for increased efforts to address aging infrastructure and climate change. Others reiterated issues expressed at others workshops regarding condo liability issues. Some spoke on the need to include the preferences for land usage of the growing younger generations. Some described a lack of clarity regarding growth planning framework regulations. Some discussed issues regarding

transportation choke points caused by poorly managed growth; others described an excess of cars both on the roads and at Light Rail parking facilities. Some touched on the plan update schedule requiring small jurisdictions with fewer resources to run at the same pace as larger cities. Others described issues regarding conflicting interests within the framework: specifically the requirements to increase amenities and community services, which drive up property values, and thus conflict with affordable housing measures. Some specifically called out the 60% + 1 requirement to pass school bonds as being a problem for growth. Others discussed the issue of siting near airports, ensuring airport expansion and increasing population density do not conflict. Some expressed a desire to see greater involvement of big employers regarding transportation expansions.

Some echoed a concern from other workshops that the framework's regulations are overly complicated and burdensome. Others described how greenery outside the urban areas is rarely working farmland. Some mentioned that the county's Growth Management Planning Council does not connect with and listen to the staff of small cities. Others discussed how the GMA prevents people from using the power of initiative to overturn the decisions of local councils. Some described how impact fees do not provide funding for improving transportation between cities. Others touched on how the incentive structure of the UGA centers development at the edges of UGA boundaries where land is cheapest, thus contributing to urban sprawl. Some mentioned understaffing issues at county level governance. Others pointed to how the GMA's 20-year time horizon is far too short for some issues, like water system planning, regional transportation planning, and adapting to the effects of a changing climate.

When discussing the future state that the public desires, some elected officials mentioned the public's desire to retain the character of their individual communities. Others touched on desire for universal design/multi modal access, and preservation of urban forests. Some spoke on the public's desire for family-oriented neighborhoods. Others described desires for housing, schools, jobs, safety, recreation, and health services. Some described the desire for intergenerational design, so that people do not have to move as they age. Others spoke on the hope for feeling like a part of a community, freedom of fast movement, and retention of beauty in the area. Some mentioned a desire for increased flexibility in planning at the local level. Others described the public's desire for predictability.

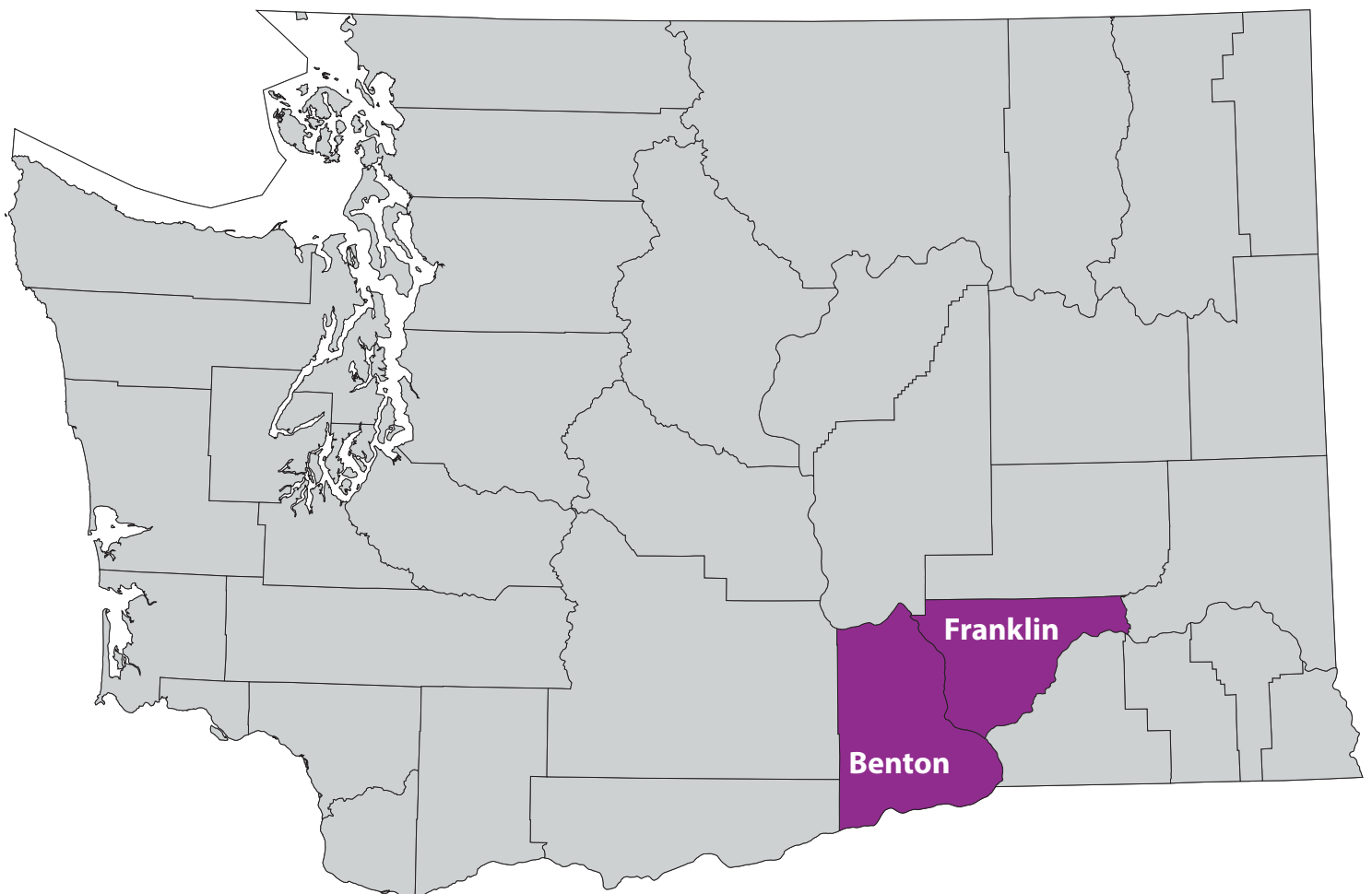
To achieve that future state, certain issues need to be addressed; a multitude of elected officials discussed a variety of housing issues. Some mentioned the need to keep housing near jobs. Others juxtaposed the proportion of housing that is publicly owned in the UK and the US, 40-60% and 2% respectively, and called for further examination of how public housing could improve the affordable housing crisis. Some called for more publicly owned housing, and more direction/regulation from the state to increase housing supply in areas in need all across the state. Others discussed the need to address economic inequality and the ineffective state tax code; some specifically called for a state-wide income tax, as did attendees at other workshops in the area. Some called for more effective coordination among various government institutions. Others spoke on the need to include school and water/sewer districts in policies about rural land use and infrastructure systems. Some called for increased flexibility in planning. Others spoke on the need to incentivize economic development in less developed areas that want to develop. Some expressed a desire for increased telecommuting. Others called for educational reform to better prepare kids for their specific career path; some added that this could be subsidized by major employers in the region. Some called for increased public involvement in planning policy design at the local level.

On the subject of public engagement, some elected officials described the cognitive disconnect between growth, and the cost and necessary compromise thereof. Others mentioned involving high school students through public service announcements to get them engaged in local issues. Some proposed emulating "City 101" in which city officials explain their role/tasks to the public. Others spoke on the limited success of social media. Some described the erosion of trust that happens when the public gets involved too late in the process to affect real change in policy. Others specified considering the use of Peak Democracy as an engagement tool. Some touched on cultural relativity, and the need

to reach people via platforms they are already familiar with. Others proposed having more interactive government websites.

Regarding additional comments, some elected officials touched on a desire to better incorporate local industry leaders into the planning process. Others pointed to Denver and Portland Metro as examples of inter-governmental collaborative governance that we can learn from. Some spoke on the need to re-incorporate water and sewage districts into the GMA. Others mentioned that planners should look at past plans and their corresponding accomplishments to evaluate what goals are realistic, and anticipate recurring problems.

BENTON & FRANKLIN WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

<p>Lots of federal funding -> jobs</p> <p>Expanding agricultural economy</p> <p>Inventing the future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coulee Dam and other dams• Electricity• Irrigation – Canal System• Technology advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manhattan project – 1940s• 70 years later – clean-up continues• Billions of \$ of federal funding• Economic driver
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanford• Dams / Flood Control• Ag Base• National Lab (PNNC)	<p>Water – irrigation</p> <p>River levees</p> <p>WWII – Atomic Bomb</p> <p>Government intervention – take over 1) Hanford 2) river</p>	<p>Growth people, wine industry, agriculture, recreation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decline of railroads• World War II• Growth of wine industry• Climate change	<p>Hanford Site serving the nation, research and Development, PNNL, Ligo</p> <p>Columbia Basin project agriculture</p>	<p>Floods 1940s built dams agriculture</p> <p>Indian Trading Center</p> <p>Transportation Hub</p>

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civil rights – back in Pasco by sundown• Hanford (WWII and beyond)• Flood – Columbia• Navy – airport development• Rail Hub• CBC / WSU• Columbia City Mall – Changed downtowns• River access – growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designation of REACH as a National Monument• Election and re-election of Barack Obama• Burgeoning wine industry• Emphasis on STE-a-M education• Hanford Engineer Works• Coulee Dam• Clean energy scientific innovations	<p>Missoula Floods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Missoula Flood• Manhattan project• Agriculture economy• Rail, bridges, and I-82
<p>Hanford</p> <p>Dams</p> <p>Tribal</p>	<p>Railroads</p> <p>Irrigation and agricultural development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanford – WWII• Agricultural Center for SE WA• Viticulture / wine growing• Hanford cleanup – natl labs• Transportation hub I-82 Hwy 395 Col. / Snake Rivers

- Demographics – racial makeup (historical segregation)
- Major employers
- Columbia river dams – natural spaces

Dams along the snake and Columbia effect jobs and utility rates

Irrigation project in Columbia basin brought farming economy up

Railroad brought Asian immigrants and A.A.'s

Hanford brought population as well

- Three Rivers – Yakima / Snake / Columbia
- Hanford – WWII – Before/during after
- Construction of the Interstate System
- Construction of the Columbia / Snake River Dams
- Provide jobs
- Provide mobility
- Economic vitality
- Recreation

Over 11,000 years ago whole area was in the ice age with a lake of 1200' and then wave and wave of floods that brought elliptic's (sp?) and as the dam broke and floods receded geologic activity that farmed over iconic ridges then settlements and farms.

In last 70 years, Hanford, bringing 1000s of people then Grand Coulee Dam, the land reclamation project and a range of industries attracted

Exponential population growth

Wine industry boom

Hanford, railroad, barging

Columbia Basin Irrigation Project

- Discovery of Ancient One "Kennewick Man"
- NAGPRA – protection of Native American artifacts, (human) ancestral remains, and material culture

- Migration of settlers into the area
- Confluence of 3 major rivers
- Growth of agriculture and initiation of irrigation
- Federal assumption of Hanford land and exclusion of inhabitants
- Dominance of Hanford in local economy for many years
- Big agriculture / vineyards / orchards in region
- Increase in population

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

When discussing community values, influences and needs, workshop participant responses included:

Outdoor opportunities: Whether for work or recreation, some participants felt that access to natural resources and development need to be considered in tandem.

A “give back” community attitude: Participants observed that people in the region are generous with their time and talent; this kind of “philanthropy” can bring people together.

Living-wage jobs: Many attendees described the importance for everyone on the income spectrum can take care of themselves and their families. This means having access to health care, services, and affordable housing.

Affordable housing: Some participants commented that, relative to the rest of Washington, housing in the region is relatively affordable. To continue this trend and ensure that housing available for all people (not just those with high-paying jobs), participants suggested that the housing stock needs to be diversified and include more dense development patterns.

Education: The region has strong K-12 schools but lacks access to a large, four-year college. This limits those who are “place bound” and can’t afford to leave for higher education opportunities.

Regional coordination and planning: The region would benefit from a vision and long-term commitment to highlight the region’s best aspects and make improvements such as providing multi-modal transportation.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

During the workshop participants were asked about the future, participants talked about how change is difficult but necessary. Participants commented that, in general, people can be resistant to change because they’re concerned about what may be sacrificed or lost, which results in pushback to things like rezoning or project proposals. However, workshop participants observed that the growing population demands development (both in terms of housing and transportation). Additionally, people want to have a healthy environment that includes a clean energy future (ideally with low taxes and minimal fees).

Participants also talked about wanting leadership, adequate funding, and open dialogue. Some commented on how accommodating the changes necessary to support a more populous, clean-energy future in a way that celebrates and maintains the aspects of the region that make it unique will require support in terms of leadership, planning, funding, and transparent information/communication.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

When asked what the purpose and value of a growth planning framework was, participants described one that was:

- Comprehensive and flexible.
 - Set communities up to have a healthy environment and economy.
 - Prevented one interest from dominating or excluding another.
 - Allows local communities to participate and decide how to meet the growth planning goals.
- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Communication: Some participants said that the GMA has improved communication and coordination among cities, counties, and departments. Before the need to develop county-wide plans, inter-governmental and inter-departmental communication was more sporadic. One participant observed that this change has increased transparency and effectiveness.

Goals and priorities: People said the GMA requires regions to adopt goals and set priorities and ensures follow-through.

Capital improvements: One participant commented that enterprise-funded infrastructure (supplemented by the impact fee authority) has made it easier to respond to the needs created by population growth.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

When asked what is not working well, and why, participants had the following responses:

One size does not fit all: Many participants felt that the GMA does not reflect the differences between urban and rural Washington; they observed that the GMA was created in the early '90s and feel that it was designed to address issues on the west side of WA. They feel the GMA needs to allow for more local control, because when policies that are designed for urban areas are applied to rural areas, there are serious problems. One suggested solution to deal with the dense case law caused by the GMA and SMA is to limit the legislature's role and give state agencies the authority to work directly with counties and cities to find localized solutions. This would help solve the east versus west issue and find a way to deal with things like resource protection, that are more locally appropriate.

Planning inconsistencies between cities and counties: There were several comments about the planning relationship between cities and counties. A few participants feel that the GMA gives too much autonomy to the counties without any checks or balances by their cities. Additionally, there isn't enough consistency between the jurisdictions which causes problems down the road. For example, one participant mentioned dead end county roads that serve very low-density areas (sometimes incomplete) that increase sprawl and, in most cases, will not get annexed by a city.

Lack of public understanding and engagement: A few participants commented on how little people seem to know about the role of the public when it comes to planning and the GMA. This is related to low public engagement, which some participants noted has always been a challenge. During the discussion, one participant mentioned how important it is to trust the final decision made by elected officials, because they represent the entire community.

Insufficient funding: Many people feel that the State does not adequately fund mandates that are related to the GMA. For example, cities and counties with limited staff and resources struggle to engage in long-range planning to stay current in the SMP/comprehensive plan update cycle. For example, rural areas

lack the capacity to undertake the required planning and they lack the resources that are in more urban areas. In addition, several people mentioned how the timing and cycle of the updates is inefficient.

Redundancy: Some observed that SEPA and GMA regulations are redundant.

Education about local planning: One suggest solution was to require elected officials to attend the short course on local planning. The state already requires local elected officials to take training on the Open Public Meetings Act requirements of state law – it should mandate at least as much training about local government roles, authorities, and requirements under GMA and other planning laws.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials described the purpose and value of the state growth management framework as a method to accommodate tremendous growth in the Tri-Cities area. The framework provides a thoughtful and intelligent process for allocating resources across a state with diverse needs and interests. Some mentioned they want a more rigorous process in place, not a hard uniform standard in place.

During the discussion, participants suggested parts of framework that are not working well, these included concerns that the public and elected officials have difficulty understanding and engaging in the process. Additionally, officials discussed specific policy concerns including: funding for rural areas to accommodate growth, the influence of annexation on tax revenue, unequal decision-making power between cities and counties, and the inflexibility, or one-size-fits-all approach to the regulation. Elected officials stated that rigid regulations prohibit communities from adapting to changing economic conditions, such as the shift in northeast Washington from resource industries to the tech sector. Also suggested was to have planning by cities and counties incorporate OFM data about housing costs vs. housing income across the state.

When asked what the participants would like to comment on that we had not asked about, many discussed the need for more education for lawmakers and the public on land use and development issues. Many discussed the need to make changes to the system. Changes included a regional framework that could articulate a common set of criteria or questions that reflect local conditions and priorities.

Participants commented on public engagement efforts in Pasco. The city has a hearing examiner process for quasi-judicial decisions and appeals. The process prevents policymakers from judicating permit decisions, which reduces confusion, controversy, delay, and costs to the permit process.

When describing the desired future of their communities, elected officials discussed the following:

- To be a multi-generational community
- To have good jobs, good schools, and good amenities
- Safety. To be able to live in a healthy community, and have access to safe drinking water
- Affordability – housing, homeownership, general cost of living
- Access to quality schools and education
- To be able to live, work, and play in their community
- Access to internet
- Being only 15 minutes from the middle of nowhere and still having access to amenities and choices like mixed-use developments along the river.
- Tax increment financing
- A sense of character is important for the sense of place to remain intact

WALLA WALLA & COLUMBIA WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

History of collaborating with other opposing groups to find solutions for the entire community "The Walla Walla Way"

History of charitable gifting to help the community that was the source of your wealth

50+ years ago

- Interstate system
- Dependence on the vehicle

25 years wine industry – put WW map nationally

10–25 years demographic changes HH size (2.4 WW) less children

- Eastern WA geology / geology of the PNW, i.e. Missoula floods, lake Spokane floods
- Settlement of U.S. to subsequent colonization
- Establishment of the Northwest Territory – Walla Walla played key role in expansion into SW Canada / Alaska
- W.W. choosing WSP over WSU
- Est of Higher Ed institutions in NW

Vacation rentals / Airbnb
Short term housing

- Geologic: Columbia Basalt Flows 15_millions YBP
- Hydrological: Lake Missoula Flood(s), 50–15,000 YBP
- European exploration and development 200+–present
- 1855 Treaty
- "contained" community
- Educated populace
- Small town feel (no sprawl)
- Involved community (civic duty)
- Beautiful downtown college campus

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

A small number of families own large amounts of land, history of agriculture in region. Patterns have endured.

Need for farm labor and processing brings seasonal migrants, but now farm work is less and less seasonal, more annual so migrants have settled as residents. Much labor from Mexico.

Growth of wine industry 1980s to now changes land use patterns and dynamics of economic growth

Damming rivers → irrigating the West, Rise of commercial farming

- Wine barrel tasting events (fall, winter, spring, summer release)
- Fair weekend (with parade)
- Winter parade (lights of parade)
- Balloon Stampede
- Egg hunt (families and children pioneer park)

25 years

- Loss of the food processing industry
- Emergence of the wine industry

- Green Giant cannery closing
- 2006 Fire
- Lewis and Clark coming through
- 1980s–1990s downtown revitalization
- Wheat farming –the ebbs and flows
- Sky Bluewood opening
- Wind Energy Technology Arriving
- Columbia Pulp opening
- Dam Construction

Growth of wine industry / tourism

- Food/Ag focused still
- Move toward green industries
- Fear/anxiety of town dying
- Desire to preserve history
- Concern about town growing/ change
- Economic impact of dams being removed

- Columbia and snake river dams
- Establishment of WWCC
- Establishment of Whitman College and Walla Walla University

Area is blessed with rich agricultural lands, so farming has driven economy and jobs since the Walla Walla region was settled

- The emergence of the wine industry – locally
- Stable local government
- Three institutions of higher education – rare for a community of this size
- Growth Management Act prevented sprawl before it started

- County has strong sense of history (museum, buildings, homes, Lewis and Clark)
- Loss of living wage jobs
- History of agriculture
- Floodplain regulations affect development

- Lake Missoula ice dam breaks and carves out this landscape
- Area inhabited by Cayuse, Walla Walla, Umatilla
- Lewis & Clark exploration
- Astor party
- Frenchtown settlement
- Oregon Trail
- 1847- Whitman massacre -> Cayuse War
- 1855- WW Treaty Council
- 1859 Nov 17- Walla Walla founded as a town
- Dec 20- Whitman Seminary Founded
- Washington State signed in WW
- 1940s Latino immigration
- 2000 Wine industry up
- 2015 Gentleman of Road festival

- Airport w/ importance for World War
- China Town (lost)
- Historical downtowns
- Cultural Ctr in SE WA

- Wheat capital
- River dams
- Irrigation
- Orchards
- Wine
- Tourism

- Whitman college -arts, policy
- U.S. Corps of Engineers flood control system e.g. mill creek, Bennington lake, -landscape
- Dryland wheat farming -wealth
- Truck farms (vegetables) south of town (now grapes)
- Canneries now wineries

- Construction of Columbia river and Snake River Dams
- Recognition that wheat is a viable / profitable crop
- Development of three colleges in the community
- Growth of the wine economy

Cultivation of export relationships, infrastructure and networks for agricultural products; international and domestic supports economic growth

Wine industry and expansion of WW as tourist destination. New hospitality investment. Attracts more investment and growth.

Establishment of higher education early on, emphasizing education as key to progress

- Surface water avail / good soil
- Whitman Mission / Fort Walla Walla For Pendleton
- State capitol -no, Olympia instead
- Choice of Penitentiary versus University
- Large farming influence
- Rural community vs. urban
- Stable employers

- History of Flooding (last '96)
- Green giant cannery closure (2005)
- Change in farming -less small producers; fewer producers / more acres
- Main street renovation (80's / 90s)
- Historical renovations (courthouse, depot, sense of history)
- Columbia Pulp -loss of logging industry

- Loss of green giant corps -jobs
- Columbia pulp being built - jobs
- Main street being rebuilt - economic development
- Non-net Coming through -broadband
- Bluewood Being built - tourism
- Green giant we lost a lot of jobs per local residents
- Pulp mill will hopefully bring in more jobs.

- Historically many different cultures settled in this region resulting in rich cultural heritage
- Statehood / local government jurisdiction
- Columbia River Dams
- Federal Acts (ESA, CWA, BPA)

Ice age floods
Loess soils
Native American history
Oregon trail

10- Viticulture and enology and tourism

1-5 corridor cost of living and

1-5 corridor congestion

100- Agriculture and Cannery production

State pen higher education
Whitman mission

Wheat and peas have been price taker commodities, but wine production is a price maker or value-added product, the difference between the 2 industries shapes the local culture and how it approaches daily decisions

Access (vehicular and air)
Opens WW to tourism
HH size -> how affect school system

- Flour Mill built along Touchet River in 1965 that lead to the development of the City of Hartsburg(sp?)
- 1950s mill closed; population decreased
- Population rebounded with the building of a green giant cannery
- -decreased with the closing of the cannery in the late 1980s
- City rebranded itself in the early 2000s that is leading to improved quality of life in the city

- 13,000 years ago- Missoula Floods deposited nutrients across soils = agricultural hub
- Mid-late 1800's established as a rich growing region for a variety of grain, fruit, vegetable crops
- 1981 Leonetti cellar receives award for best cab sauv and wine is now known in Walla Walla
- 1984 Fed government designates Walla Walla Valley American Vinicultural Area
- 2001 Walla Walla wine alliance established to promote wine region

Missoula Floods created a geologic region with a variety of soil types - resulting in natural agricultural region for indigenous people thru today.

Walla Walla Watershed - was divided into 2 states - OR and WA. Resulting in arbitrary jurisdictional line leading to a natural economic and geographical region being divided makes it more difficult, not impossible to work together to solve regional issues

Dams - Columbia and snake

Affect transportation and agriculture

Food processing to wine added value and culture

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Participants had the following responses when asked what influences their quality of life:

State support for infrastructure, education, and technology: Participants pointed out the importance of education and infrastructure, such as roads, sewers, and broadband services, when it comes to maintaining a high quality of life. They also mentioned how difficult it is for small communities to provide these things without state support (i.e., funding).

Jobs and affordable housing: A few participants noted that there are very few homes for sale in the region; they say that limited housing is an “issue” for the region, partially because it’s important to have a reasonable commute to work.

Natural resources: Workshop participants commented on the natural beauty of the region and the importance it has on quality of life and health. Access to clean, abundant and renewable water was also discussed.

Health care: Access to affordable health care and enabling healthy lifestyles was mentioned by several participants.

Long-term vision: Several participants talked about the importance of having a long-term vision for their community. Examples of long-term vision components included having balanced governance that recognizes the needs of its population; being committed to community well-being; being more inclusive of women and minority populations; focusing on the needs of the next generation; and facilitating moderate growth for the community to thrive.

Community engagement: A few participants mentioned the importance of civic engagement. For the government to be able to listen to its constituents, they need to be informed of the issues. Another participant mentioned the need to engage the entire community, including minority populations before making decisions, not after.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

When asked about their desired future, participant responses included:

Collaboration and coordination among governments and residents: A few participants noted that, though collaboration takes time and resources, it’s an important process that helps to address the needs of the community and ensure successful programs. Participants referenced the Walla Walla Community Council and its Community Conversations document as an example of a positive collaborative experience. One participant also noted that the Community Conversations worked to engage the community by conducting meetings in the evenings, with food and childcare provided.

Reformed tax system: Participants commented that Washington’s tax system makes it more difficult

for local governments to receive adequate funding to serve growing populations. One described the current system as fundamentally unfair and inequitable.

Restore and preserve natural systems: Participants cited Mill Creek in Walla Walla as an example of a natural area that's been restored and has increased value to the community.

Ability to stay and thrive in the area: For many participants, being able to thrive includes having access to higher education; having a strong economy and job opportunities; having safe roads, sidewalks, and neighborhoods; and living in a healthy community that prioritizes wellness.

Housing: Participants observed that many people want homes that are close to schools and parks.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants said that a growth management framework should provide a systematic way to make short- and long-term decisions to best serve the community and the environment. It should also encourage coordination and eliminate siloed management of the region and needs to connect water and land management.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When asked what is working well about the current growth planning framework, participants discussed the following:

- Local regulations help protect historic character.
- Agricultural and natural resource lands are protected.
- The process mandates citizen involvement and coordination among jurisdictions.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participant responses included:

Communities do not have enough resources: Local governments do not receive enough funding from the State to undertake important planning. To help with tasks like data collection and analysis, some suggested engaging with state colleges to help collaborate. Some participants commented that the GMA has requirements and data needs that exceed most counties' capacity and expertise. A few participants commented on the need for planning for the future and technological change. For example, counties are currently responsible for planning for water, which includes collecting and analyzing data. There is not enough capacity or expertise to do this, it should be done by the Department of Ecology.

Urban Growth Areas are too limiting: Many participants felt that the GMA does not address the differences between rural and urban counties. For example, sprawl in Walla Walla is not the same as sprawl in Seattle. Urban growth areas create a scarcity of developable land, which results in land being

too expensive to build homes on.

Plan revision and update cycle: Some participants felt that they needed to be able to reassess and revise their 20-year plans more frequently, so they don't become dated/unrealistic. Others commented on the high expense associated with updating a comprehensive plan and suggested that slower-growing counties be required to update less frequently.

Not enough communication: A few participants commented on the need for citizens and elected officials to have a better understanding of how planning works and is implemented. One participant observed that many people see the growth management system as very complicated, so they avoid engaging with it.

Transportation: The exemption of state highways from concurrency is a serious problem that should be remedied. Additionally, there needs to be measuring of the sufficiency of all modes of transportation, not just cars.

Housing affordability: Housing affordability is not addressed by GMA and the entire growth planning framework needs to be looked at for how it can be revised to respond to housing issues. One solution suggested included a state review and approval requirement for the housing element of a local comprehensive plan. Including regulations that implement the housing element, to ensure accountability.

Utilities to serve schools: Extending utilities into rural areas to serve a school is a problematic. Some participants talked about how Schools need access to affordable land the same way developers do. One suggested solution was to create a fund to help enable a condemnation process for schools to buy the more expensive land within the urban growth area.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

When discussing what is missing from the framework, several wondered how can we coordinate our built environment and transportation system to help us achieve a healthy lifestyle and reduce our consumption of resources and energy.

- *What additional data or research is needed to inform possible changes to the growth planning framework?*

Participants were asked what additional research is needed to help inform possible changes, some suggested looking at watersheds and geographical boundaries instead of artificial political to help inform planning. Others suggested working with the Washington State Budget and Policy Center. In any additional research, participants suggested finding more opportunities for collaborative efforts that could make these changes less expensive.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials in Walla Walla and Columbia described the value and purpose of the state growth planning framework as to promote collaboration and communication between governments and residents. Some stated that the framework enables a more transparent decision-making process that reduces misunderstandings and conflict. Managing growth through the framework ensures infrastructure that supports growth, predictability, and equity. Further benefits include preservation of agricultural and resource lands; balancing residential and commercial development; and enabling coordination around land use policy, especially transportation. Participants specifically described the collaboration with the bi-state Metropolitan Planning Organization as working “unbelievably well.”

Elected officials echoed many of the concerns raised by multi-sector participants. Elected officials discussed resource limitations that dampen the ability for smaller communities to plan and implement growth management strategies. Participants cited the tax structure: Washington’s 1% property tax increase limit, limited access to the multi-family tax exemption tool based on population, and the complications of annexation and unincorporated areas. Like the multisector workshop, elected officials voiced issues about the expense of updating the comprehensive plan, especially for smaller communities. Some suggested either extending the time required for updates or funding the current 8-year requirement with state funds. Others desired more flexibility in implementing the comprehensive plan, allowing for opportunities to adapt to emerging issues. Elected officials recommended making slight alterations to the framework, rather than an overhaul. Some possible changes include tying regulations to specific policy outcomes; matching funding for public infrastructure to climate zones, revising annexation statutes, and including internet access as a public utility.

When asked about process to engage the public, elected officials shared concerns that people do not get involved in public processes until decisions affect them directly or are unaware of how to participate in public meetings. To encourage better engagement, many suggested using social media, incorporating engagement into civic events, like Farmers’ Markets, improving civics education in schools, and building relationships with realtors to provide new homeowners on local plans and codes.

When describing the desired future of their communities, elected officials discussed the following:

- Affordable housing
- Have access to quality schools
- Having access to quality health care
- Family wage jobs
- Flexibility for land owners to be able to make their own decisions when it comes to their property
- To be able to have families live work and stay in their communities
- Able to be a part of a community and contribute to the overall well-being of the community
- Address climate change
- Low crime rates and better public safety
- Have a rural, small-town feel but still have access to high quality services like health care
- A continued culture of collaboration – the Walla Walla Way
- More opportunities and access to nature and trails

CHELAN & DOUGLAS WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Orchards / Labor Force
- Columbia River
- Wenatchee Valley College
- Families Moving to the Valley Growth

- Conventions
- College
- Fruit production
- Diverse (culturally) communities
- Electricity production

Labor/ picker shortages in ag
4-yr degrees offered at WVC
Link transit established

Columbia River as a
transportation corridor
(13,000 years ago to 1960s)

Only county in nation to own
2 electric power dams as
public utility districts

Center for rare plant
abundances (13 rare species
within a 10-mile radius)

Wenatchee city is at lowest
extent of Wenatchee river
watershed

- Farmers market
- CVCH
- Confluence
- Fred Meyer
- Mission ridge

100 years to present

- Chelan City: agriculture
apples, cherries, wine
and large supportive
infrastructure (packing
houses)
- Douglas City: agriculture:
wheat, cattle, some other
grains

50-60 years

Hydroelectric dams- locally
controlled power and resource
also resulting in endangered
salmon species loss of tribes
traditional places (rock island,
cielo, and culture)

Geography strangely shapes
the community today

The constraints of topography

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Data farms
- Tech industry
- Cheap energy and real estate
- Driven up housing prices
- Folks moving west side of the state
- Political shifts
- Lack of affordable housing

Rapidly growing Latino/a
population center- farm
worker driven

Most important mule deer
wintering area in Chelan
County

13,000-1,000 years ago

Just south of the
continental ice sheet

Location of brez/Missoula
floods (ice age)

Edge of Columbia basalt
flows 17, mya

Break between cascade
mountains and Columbia
plateau

Shrub-steppe meets low
elevation dry forest

- Mission ridge
- Loop trail
- Wilderness (alpine - glacier)
- Wenatchee river (recreation)

- Construction of dam(s)
- Fires- Broadview
- Regionalizing Fire Services
- Fruit Processing Automation
- Town Toyota Center - PFD
- Data Centers built here

- Pybus public market & partnership
- Confluence Health Partnership over Central WA Hospital & Wen. Valley Clinic
- Waterfront development
- Riverfront loop trail (apple capital)

25 years -> present

- Demographic changes: Latino culture, influx from other areas, second homes / income disparity, housing crisis
- Riverfront development (Wenatchee)
- Loop trail Pybus Hotels and Housing

- Hydro power
- Ability to irrigate farm land
- Immigration
- Wild fire
- Shift in retail shopping patterns
- Development of land trust
- GMA

- Apple blossom
- Athletic events
- Bike
- Run
- Swim
- Soccer
- Softball

Location – off 190 – more small town feel less industry

- Dams / PVD
- Airport
- Leavenworth festivals
- WVC college
- Pybus / waterfront development

Columbia River

Provided agriculture basis for area – jobs – identity

- Decline of timber industry
- Adoption of Bavarian theme
- Growth of tourism
- Growth of 2nd homes
- Decline of affordable housing
- Increase in traffic

- Tectonic plates – movement volcanic action
- Missoula flood
- Native American communities native American horse trade
- Western expansion / takeover of native land
- Apple industry
- Cold storage

Dust bowl – changed agriculture practices to try to decrease soil erosion

Dams in Columbia river prevented salmon from reaching some Douglas county streams – especially past chief Joseph

Mills closing

Wild fires

Crypto currency

Stable economy due to agriculture

i.e. rather untouched by recession in many ways)

Winter home for seasonally migrating Wenatchee tribes: based on food availability

- At present culture is not prominent

Agriculture dependent upon snow melt so climate change risk both irrigated and drylands

Increasing size and frequency of wildfires: structure, tourism, air quality, reduced health

- Missoula flood – geography
- Dams on Columbia – hydro power and water
- Irrigation – orchards
- Alcoa opening
- Pangborn airport
- Bridges across Columbia

Created the land base agricultural and economic base

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Ruckelshaus Center facilitators asked workshop attendees to discuss what influences the quality of life and things that are needed to thrive. Some participants described a desire for better access to health care. A few expressed a need for improvements in infrastructure and public transportation across the board. Others specified a need for affordable housing for Leavenworth's workforce. Participants also expressed a desire for more amenities, culture, and arts. Some talked about the value of proximity to the outdoor recreation and agriculture. Others articulated that while PreK – high school education was adequate, they desired post-graduate education opportunities, and job prospects in the region for those graduates.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Many workshop participants talked about housing. Specifically, some discussed the need for affordable housing at all income levels; others wanted a variety of housing options (single- and multi-family, square footage) both for rental and ownership. A few also talked about the need for policy incentives and/or zoning changes, such as allowing shared wall housing, which could reduce the overall cost of building new housing units.

Some attendees expressed desire for improved infrastructure and public transportation, while some particularly called for buses that run in the evenings and on weekends.

Workshop participants also talked about environmental values, specifically the need to mitigate climate change, and balance development with wilderness and environmental protections.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

A variety of participants saw value in the growth planning frameworks ability to direct growth in a purposeful manner which minimizes long-term costs of development. Others mentioned the benefits of improved interjurisdictional coordination. Some talked about the value of the growth planning framework as a process for making local decisions.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Some participants praised the flexibility (rather than prescriptiveness) of the Regional Transportation

Planning Organization (RTPO) program; while others expressed satisfaction with mechanisms to protect agricultural lands and other critical areas. Some felt that requirements to link land-use planning to infrastructure planning work well. Others voiced appreciation that the GMA requires communities to think consciously and deliberately about future growth.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Many workshop participants expressed a range of frustrations regarding with the growth planning framework, including the following:

- Perception that the GMA is a West-side driven process, which is not fully embraced or applicable in all parts of the state.
 - Legacy lots that precede the GMA present current planning challenges which are inadequately addressed.
 - Framework does not define “urban.”
 - Water and sewer districts must rely entirely on rate payers, which does not provide adequate revenue to extend utilities to serve the land uses that a county or city may designate in its comprehensive land use plan.
 - Length of time between plan updates.
 - Physical geography and locations of urban infrastructure are constraints to growth and density that may not have been sufficiently factored into the existing urban growth area boundaries.
 - State no longer provides funding to local governments to do the mandated planning.
 - Lack of capacity and funding at the state and local levels, the former to provide technical assistance and the latter to develop and implement plans.
 - Timeframes for platting and permit processing are inconsistent.
 - Framework is not conducive to innovative or adaptive planning and development.
 - Inadequate protection of public access along those waterfronts.
 - Disconnect between planning framework and the market. Specifically, some attendees noted that the rising cost of land is pushing for some more efficient and compact land development, however large lot patterns are still prevalent.
 - Framework creates barriers to and/or does not adequately meet the region’s need for affordable housing.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Elements missing, or not addressed, as mentioned by workshop participants included the following:

- Need more tools to help build and upgrade the infrastructure required for growth, as well as an improved process for funding infrastructure;
- Need to create a toolkit that would allow for adaptability and creativity, such as clustered development which would support growth without developing more land;
- Need to assess ability to use impact fees provisions of the GMA to create a mechanism to create a revenue stream for infrastructure facilities provided by special districts.

- Need guidelines for regulations to enable a variety of innovative building forms (e.g., cottages, townhomes, zero lot line subdivisions, the missing middle, tiny homes.)

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Many elected officials described the purpose of the growth planning framework as requiring communities to proactively and intentionally design to grow. Some talked about this in terms of efficiently planning infrastructure improvements and using tax dollars, while others described the value of preventing inappropriate uses near schools or residential areas. Others described the value of the planning framework as a process for coordination across jurisdictions.

When discussing what parts of the growth planning framework work well, attendees mentioned improved coordination across jurisdictions, some specified this improvement as having a common vocabulary for planning and awareness of needs for funding. Some praised the environmental protections, while others articulated the importance and effectiveness of consistency across the state. Some also noted that the current planning framework works well in contrast to some of the poor planning practices and outcomes of the past.

In terms of elements of the growth planning framework which do not work well for Chelan and Douglas Counties, elected officials expressed many of the same frustrations that emerged during the multi-sector workshop. Many attendees observed that “one-size does not fit all,” saying that the uniformity of the growth planning framework does not line up well with the diversity of the state. Others said that some cross-jurisdiction coordination is not effective, particularly with regards to school and utility districts working with cities. Some expressed a fundamental disagreement with the growth planning framework, saying that local expertise and governments can better meet community needs than the state. Others expressed frustrations with the tax code and ability for local governments to generate revenue, especially in terms of annexation shifting tax revenue from counties to cities. In terms of things missing or potential changes to the planning framework, some expressed a need for no interest loans for infrastructure improvements, echoing a multi-sector desire for increased infrastructure development. Some articulated a desire for greater flexibility in the growth planning framework, some wanting specific processes to opt out of individual ill-fitting requirements, others wanting the growth planning framework to be exclusively guidelines. Others called for a wider variety of legal tools to protect agricultural lands or the ability to expand sewers to new developments.

With regards to the future, some expressed a desire to retain the existing sense of community and outdoor amenities, while others mentioned that growth is inevitable, and a tailored plan to manage it is necessary. A variety of elected officials echoed wishes from the multi sector workshop for more amenities, affordable housing, local job opportunities, and access to health care. Some expressed a need to combat the impact of rising property values on current residents.

With regards to public engagement, attendees noted that while it can be challenging to engage the public in lengthy and complicated planning processes, the Our Valley, Our Future effort was a successful collaboration. Some also expressed a need for more resources—guidance and funding—to support other organic, grassroots efforts.

OKANOGAN WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Okanogan River – Geologic divide between Rockies and Cascades
- Native Americans populate region 7,000+ years ago
- European settlements in the early 1800s
- First orchard on Lake Osayoo 1854
- Cariboo trail cattle drives 1830-1890's
- Railroad early 1900s
- Public land management policies that affect use of natural resources
- Closure of irrigation districts due to ESA in 1998-99
- Mega fires of 2014 + 2015

Development of the tree fruit industry

Climate change -> wildfire

The county is huge. Bigger than three states. It is divided into two watersheds and the Colville tribe. The Methow and the Okanogan watersheds, each with different demographics, climate. The Methow valley is a rainforest compared to the Okanogan, for instance. The two largest wildfires in state history have occurred in Okanogan valley. Culturally, politically, and economically, it has been difficult to coordinate between the two watersheds and the tribe.

- Recent (5 years) wildfires- economic disasters
- (10 years) economic effect of "box" stores in rural communities
- (50 years) slow population growth youth leaving county
- (100 years) dominant population change from Native to Anglo

Homesteading (100+ years)

Columbia Dams

Fire especially mega-fires

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Bureau of Reclamation Irrigation Project of salmon creek 1916. Demonstrated possibility of irrigated agriculture

1948 Flood destroyed bridges and roads and re-building with federal money to improve access. Also diked rivers leading to salmonid stress

1968 freeze destroyed local orchard industry never replaced in Methow leading to large ag parcel subdivision

Fires of 2005 to 2010 showed need for effective forest management and urban interface protection

- Control of rioses expansion of economy
- Improved access, adverse impact on local economy
- Increased growth impacted riparian
- Settlement rush, cultural conflict

- Rural electrification
- Highway expansion
- Flood control "efforts"
- Appropriation of native lands
- Homestead act requirements
- Water management / rights
- Endangered species act

Displacement of native cultures from historic homelands / movement of Colville res boundaries

Glaciation
Tribal treaties
Homestead act
Mining act
Irrigated agriculture

- Carlton complex 2014
- Okanogan complex 2015
- State record-setting wildfires

End of the early winters resort development process in the upper Methow

- Lack of empl. Opportunity (esp for young adults to stay here)
- Low wages
- Long-term economically depressed & recent crash
- Loss of apple orchards (decr in #)
- Loss of logging income
- Loss of ranching
- Overall loss of agricultural income
- Lack of higher ed opportunity

Development of big-box stores in Omak, taking away commerce from downtown merchants

- Formation of Colville reservation
- Development of irrigation systems
- Hydropower development / dams
- Community development and collaboration around projects e.g. food banks Tonasket pool
- Wildfires 2014-18 especially

- Grand coulee dam
- Fires
- Agriculture
- Transition in workforce
- Mills closing / opening / closing
- PSIS boarding schools
- Reservation established
- Natural resources
- Changes in industry

- Glacial period – geologic events
- Mining boom
- Executive order forming CCT
- Logging and cattle boom
- Orchard expansion
- In-migration from metro areas

Flood of 1948 passage of planning enabling act (1960's)

Freeze of 1968

70's young people begin to move to Methow Valley citizens organize to oppose development too large for environment (taking as for as supreme ct. 1986

Space to breathe
Quality of life unavailable in urban areas

Closures of natural resource industries

Reduction in economic growth thru restriction by federal govt.

No population growth

Reliance on natural resources for economic base– renewable and non-renewable industrial and recreation / tourism

Development of agriculture dam building cheap hydro irrigation

Changes in natural resource extraction practices

- 100 years homesteading opening of north half of Colville reservation
- 1915 railroad built to transport apples to markets
- 1960 cattle 75000 had less than 20000
- 1980 loss of apples of cattle industry
- Increase of absent/ vacationing owners
- Loss of school age children
- Increase of older retirement age population
- Poverty for school age to retirement age

Increasing area impacted by human development

50 years ago, invasion of counterculture youth who are now the elders and influenced growth of organic markets and environmentalism

100 years resource mining of timber, minerals, and agriculture

Resulted in resource dependence and agricultural lifestyle

1972 Okanogan floods 2018
1948 Methow river flood

- North cascade HWY opening
- Regional decline of the timber industry
- Evolution growth of outdoor recreation
- Hydropower
- Evolution of irrigation technology and bill programs to provide funding

Removal of native people from their ancestral lands in the Methow and elsewhere

Spill-over impacts of Seattle wealth creation in tech sector
– vacation home development, property value impacts

Influx of European settlers and forcing indigenous peoples on to reservations and then shrinking or selling off parts of reservations to Europeans
Later immigration / migration of agricultural workers from other parts of the world

- Decline of timber industry
 - Large scale agriculture / decline of family farming
 - North cascades HWY
 - Methow review district
-

Increase in recreation and second homes from rise in income generally, but mostly in other parts of the state

ESA listings of fish in the upper Columbia region

- Migration of agricultural workers
 - Higher education established and expansion of educational resources plus loss of these resources
 - Loss / shutdown of multiple wood mills and similar industries i.e. loss of jobs / economic stability for families
 - Wildfires and lack of forest management
 - Lack of necessary resources such as housing, access to adequate healthcare, to meet basic needs
-

- Shift in the basis for local economies away from extractive – mining, logging
-

- For the Methow –in recent decades – trends towards outdoor recreation and tourism economy
-

- In Winthrop adoption of western theme
-

- Influx of people from westside and beyond
-

- Shifts in agriculture as small farm versus corporate
-

Creation of the road system by native travelers, homesteaders, mail carriers

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

During the workshop participants were asked what influences their quality of life, and what do they need to thrive. Participants expressed the following:

The environment and open spaces: Some described the value of vast openness, room to breathe, and privacy. They also valued a healthy environment that supplies plenty of clean water and clean air. Additionally, one participant noted that seventy percent of the county is public land.

Resiliency: Participants discussed how important it is to be able to adapt to fire and floods. They mentioned a big opportunity to design and build more fire-resistant homes, as the rising demand could create a new industry. People also discussed why it's important to keep preserve agriculture, to prevent the landscape from being split into smaller pieces; which could diminish community culture.

Youth and education: Some expressed how difficult it is for young people to navigate higher education and be aware of all potential career paths. One suggested solution had the state invest more in workforce development to provide high-skilled job training to youth as an alternative to a four-year college, for example training in high tech. Education as a whole was valued by participants, along with working to increasing youth retainment within communities.

Community: Participants expressed how valuable it's been to have actively engaged community members, especially in the Methow. Others described how it can be hard as a newcomer to join these close-knit communities.

Economy: People expressed the need for industries that will provide family wage jobs. To attract industries, participants suggested improving infrastructure and broadband access. Additionally, some described the current workforce as insufficient to meet the needs of current businesses.

Housing and healthcare: Access to both affordable housing and healthcare was discussed during the workshop. The healthcare problem was described by some as a quality issue. For example, the three current hospitals have decreased the availability of health insurance. Others described the decrease in quality as physicians leave the area, due to lack of other amenities.

Regulations: Some people said there needs to be a more predictable streamlined permitting process. For example, the USACOE and DOE process requires 300 days, which scares off potential developers and investors. When discussing the larger economy, some people expressed how the number of regulations makes it difficult for industries to recover.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

When participants were asked what their desired future is, many responses revolved around regulation issues. Some people said regulations are too far reaching, and too uniform. Others said that regulations should be enforced fairly, to provide more security and certainty. For example, an adaptive management approach that would provide on the ground expertise and services would help solve more individualized

problems with less bureaucracy. Moving forward, participants also discussed how engagement and willingness to work together towards solutions will be important to achieve community goals. Participants also mentioned certain things that particularly influence the community, such as its proximity to Canada, and growing retiree population.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants described the purpose and value of a growth planning framework to organize and identify common goals that guide decision making at various levels. It was also valued as a method to protect community assets by minimizing unwanted consequences.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When participants were asked what part of the growth planning framework works well, many cited individual successes of programs or litigation. Such as the DNRs' farm forest fish passage program, the lawsuit to prevent the Early Winters Resort (1985), some aspects of VSP, County Conservation Districts, ESA implementation in the Methow, land acquisitions, and Firewise programs. Other outside influences mentioned include the Long-Term Recovery Group, and other strong nonprofit groups.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*
 - Participants described the following examples of what is not working well with the current growth planning framework:
 - Lack of inter-agency coordination and communication, specifically the DOE and DNR. For example, the county does not incorporate wildfire recommendations from DNR into the comprehensive plan, and Department of Ecology does not give enough notice of appeal deadlines for the county SMP.
 - There are not enough incentives for counties to buy into the growth planning framework. For example, some cited 30-year projections by OFM (Office of Financial Management) and WRIA (Water Resource Inventory Areas), feel more like speculations that don't motivate people. Additionally, some shared that OFM projections do not include seasonal populations surges, second home ownership (even from Seattle and Bellevue), or Airbnb's.
 - The framework has contradictions in water statutes, leaving it to the courts to work out the inconsistencies. Some expressed desire for increased authority on the county level for water basin management or following local water resource conservancy board's decisions.
 - Unfunded mandates make it difficult to comply. Some want increased funding from the state towards the growth planning framework's requirements. Additionally, some wanted specific state funding for skilled job training at local community colleges.
 - There is no state grant support that would make implementation of SMPs and CAO's feasible. Another participant noted that if the GMA were structured more like SMA, regions would be more confident.
 - Concurrency requirements of GMA do not seem to be working on the West Side.
 - There is a lack of designated resource lands.

- County compliance enforcement is ineffective. For example, if the county doesn't comply with critical area requirements, people need the ability to appeal to the Growth Management Hearings Board.
- Forestry regulations are difficult to work with, especially the Forest Practices Act, which prevents even small-scale tree removal for the purpose of fire safety. Additionally, overly constricting timber regulations limit production of firewood.
- Turnover in local and tribal governments slows down progress with the growth planning framework and causes people to disengage from the lengthy process.
- There are excessive processes in salmon habitat restoration and preservation. One example shared, had to get an HPA and USACOE 404 permit to just put a rain gauge on a ridge.

What additional data or research is needed to inform possible changes to the state growth planning framework?

Some expressed a desire to look at potential future migratory patterns between regions of the state, either driven by economic trends, lifestyle choices, or fleeing natural disasters, mainly earthquakes. Additionally, some mentioned future changes in the insurance industry. There may be radical changes in what they are willing to cover. For example, after California wildfires companies that lost big California's fires will potentially be extinguishing policies and/or increasing rates for policies in Washington's fire country. Insurers are now looking not just at individual tracts of land or homes but using computer model and GIS information about larger areas that are at risk for big fires.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials discussed what purpose and value they saw in the growth planning framework. Some discussed the value of common language and guidance that the growth planning framework provides. long-term planning is also valuable to help think about financing and construction of large infrastructure projects. In general, the purpose of the framework is to be proactive about managing growth.

When asked what parts of the growth planning framework work well, some agreed that common terminology enables better communication between people and jurisdictions. Other specific components of the framework like critical areas, urban growth areas, and development agreements were mentioned.

Next participants were asked what parts of the framework were not working well, the following responses were discussed by participants:

- Find better ways to integrate SEPA and GMA for a more effective environmental review. Additionally, there are different SEPA thresholds in fully planning GMA counties versus non-fully planning counties. Some stressed the difference between reconciliation and consolidation, and said that reconciliation is necessary to simplify the layers of law for the general public.
- The tax structure can drive governments to make land use decisions in order to increase the tax base.
- If there is going to be a required outcome, it should be possible to figure out what that outcome is.
- Some participants wanted more case studies to see what real harm can occur as a result of some of the provisions in the Growth Management Act.
- In order to protect agriculture lands, agriculture needs to be made a viable option again.

- Sacrifices for the societal good are made on individual landowners' property rights. If it is a societal benefit, it should be paid for by society. For example, purchased conservation easements that limit land use.
- The system needs to retain and respect the uniqueness of different parts of the state. Okanogan is different than Puget Sound. If the system is applied uniformly in all regions of the state, it reduces ability to respond to local needs.
- One size cannot work for everybody. It is necessary to recognize that smaller jurisdictions don't have the capacity to undertake the scale of work that is possible for larger jurisdictions.

While discussing the desired future, participants discussed economic concerns such as: the import of retirees and export of young people, the lack of amenities, jobs and business opportunities. Some articulated that any increase in amenities to attract people to the area, must be accompanied by an increase in affordable housing in general, and specifically for the workforce. In addition, investments in broadband infrastructure and education would help move the economy. One suggested a recycling plant as an option to create a more vertical economy that adds value to the region.

When discussing public engagement, some mentioned the difficulty in keeping people engaged over time as more of the same issues have no resolution, and people start to lose faith in the process. Community participation is difficult outside the Upper Methow. They are currently trying to involve more tribal communities with the Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG). Some expressed desire for third party facilitation to manage polarized politics within community involvement efforts.

THURSTON WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Aging population
- Salmon
- Automobile!

Dominance of roads, cars, etc. as transportation choice

Salish Indian influence

Past industries: farming, fishing, timber, state government, business in general

Enactment of the framework of growth and environmental laws at the state level

Thriving economy of the South Sound

- Location – Position of capitol
- Growth management both positive and negative – biggest weakness failure of cities excl Seattle to infill
- Urban growth boundaries pressure on cost of land
- Creation adversarial role –government vs housing industry
- Excessive emphasis on process and regulation

- Location of the capitol
- Construction of 15
- Loss of the brewery
- 2001 earthquake

- Last glacier
- 1800 before and after adoption of the GMA
- Start of Olympia 1855, lacey 1967 Tumwater, Yelm
- Global climate change concerns
- Fires

21st Century

- Permanent farmers Market in Olympia and 14 other FM in region
- Grads from TESC, SPSCC, and St. Martins want to be local farmers

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

2010-2011 increase in activity in the JBLM for Iraq and Afghanistan Wars

State capitol – endangered species acts spotted owl and pocket gophers

Increased parks and public access

Loss / reduction of natural resources industries

Brewery closing

Trail system

Brewery opening

- Olympia brewery
- Statehood
- Evergreen State College
- Construction of I-5
- Contraction of St. govt
- Mariners make playoffs
- Nisqually earthquake
- 9-11

2011 water well regulations

Gopher listing

Purchase of development rights

Nisqually Valley

JBLM growth

- Establishment of the evergreen state college
- Change of government in Olympia from commission to council / manager
- Various earthquakes
- Lott alliance

Billy Frank Jr. Refuge

Passing of GMA focus on trying to control growth impact on environment and communities

Tension between costs and environmental impact on developments and growth

South Sound
Capital Mall

Small farms still in place

- St. Martins
- SESCC
- Evergreen

Establishment of the
Evergreen State College

1967 – influences local
politics and issues i.e.
environment

Various policies that
discriminated against Native
Americans, women, and
racial minorities

Onset of impacts of climate
change

- Shoreline Master Plan
- Growth –internal and
external
- High tech < resource
extraction
- Wilder/white cap. Campus
- Dam

Drought 2015

- Water availability
awareness
- Declining salmon runs
- Wildfires
- Smoke / air quality
concerns

Natural resource extraction
industries

Most recent recession

St. Martin Abbey and
university

- Native American →
European transition
- Growth and decline of
extractive industries
- Effect of central Puget
sound on rest of Puget
sound
- Ongoing inflow of new
people from us and
outside

Joint Planning Agreements
90's

- Mazama pocket gopher
- Lots of different ecological
environments to consider
- Flooding
- City growth limited
by geographical
considerations
- Significant cultural
divides between south
county and the cities

Adoption of SEPA and other
environmental regulations

- JBLM growth
- Farming to bedroom
community
- New casino – Yelm

- Genocide and
displacement of Native
Americans
- Statehood and land grab
by industrial barons

- Extensive natural
resource extraction
and development
without mitigation of
environmental and social
impacts.

- Automobiles and
transportation development
- Commuting long distances
to work
- Importance of schools
especially in rural areas –
merger of small dist's into
medium sized districts
- Sense of preserving and
conserving natural areas

Rapid in-migration starting in
70's

Natural disasters earthquakes,
tsunami

- Receding glaciers 16,000
years ago
- ~10 K years of first
American habitation
- ~150 years ago beginning
of extraction economy and
settlement of estuaries
- ~100-50 years ago
increased urbanization of
estuaries and other critical
habitat. Growth of industry
- ~50 establishment of EPA
- ~50-30 years ago
decline of industry rapids
urbanizations
- ~20-50 years ago rapid
population growth

Fishing

First Urban Growth Area '88

- Broke up railroad carlyn
fill- port
- JBLM
- GMA / ESA etc.

Construction of I-5

Lumber

Coal

Rail

Harbor

Construction of west side mall
"capital mall"

U.S. Department of Defense
formation of Camp Lewis →
JBLM; 1 in 10 Washington
residents is a veteran

military is a major driver of
growth in south sound and
contributor to economy and
I-5 traffic

GMA

Designation of Olympia as
state capital

I-5: Good and bad – Cut
Tumwater in half

Melting of glaciers –formed
geology, soils, etc.

Incorporation of City of Lacey

Nisqually Delta Refuge

Earthquake

- Shoreline Management Plan
 - Mazama pocket gopher & HCP
 - Critical Areas Ordinance
-

- I-5
 - TESC
 - 1889 – statehood
 - Boldt decision
-

- Incorporation of Lacey
 - Construction of I-5
 - Olympia chosen as state seat of gov.
 - Establishment of JBLM
 - Orientation of BNSF mainline
-

Adoption of GMA

- Damming the Deschutes estuary (1951)
 - Industrial uses along waterfront downtown and on estuary all disappeared by 2010
 - Small cities along RR's now have no transit service
 - Capital large state employee population with state employment
-
- Homelessness: drugs services mental health
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Earthquake / hazard preparedness – not ready
 - Technology – interconnectivity will be more important in the future

- Water quality
-

- Start of 20th century
 - Growth of farming – dairy, fruits, etc.
 - 1960's – 80's decline of dairy perception that farming not part of Thurston
 - 2010 growth of small direct sales diverse farms
-

- West side bridge
 - Dam at Capital Lake
 - Capital Lake Master Plan
-

South Sound Mall -1966

Native Americans lived here

Historic glacial activity:
prairies, gravel, species,
agriculture

Oregon Trail and funding of
Tumwater

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Some participants described valuing the small, manageable size of Thurston. Others discussed the city's proximity to urban and outdoor amenities, stating that access to trails, waterfront, parks, clean air, and clean water have positive impacts on physical and mental health. Others identified the benefits of living close to Olympia for retail and service options. Some touched on the benefits of the diversity in their community and the interconnected, social aspects of the area. Other attendees focused comments on the importance of state government in providing local education and supporting the economy.

To thrive, attendees cited a need to have a more structured decision-making process, such as mediation, for growth management issues. Some participants discussed a need to nurture arts and culture to promote community development. Other suggestions included improving the quality of infrastructure, such as wastewater, roads, and water services. Participants also shared a need for an actionable plan to respond to climate change.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Participants had a wide variety of desires for the future. Some of the recurring themes included affordable housing, government transparency, environmental preservation, and outdoor recreation. The discussion raised a need to improve public and boating access to the Puget Sound and generally improving parks in the area.

Participants continued to describe a future community working together to resolve homelessness and income inequality, creating employment near housing opportunities and other "livability" measures, and preparing for natural disasters. Other concerns included a need for more cultural diversity, a sense of resistance of change from the community, and action to increase engagement within decision-making.

Some described the need for tax reform, including an income tax, to finance growth management. One specific need was the use of regulatory incentives to ease complying with the framework.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Some articulated the purpose of the growth planning framework as a plan to effectively manage and coordinate growth across the state. Other participants expressed a value for cultivating public engagement through the policy framework. Some participants appreciated the framework as a means to creating a sustainable economy. Other participants shared that growth management maintains and/or improves the quality of life for everyone in the community, protecting nature by encouraging people to live in cities. The framework also has the purpose to optimize the job, education, and housing opportunities in the region by protecting the cost of living and improving the quality of life in the area.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When describing aspects of the growth planning framework that work well, including:

- Provides and protects choices for residents to live in rural and urban environments.
- Progress towards a more comprehensive, coordinated, and proactive growth management plan. Countywide planning policies provide a baseline for communication and coordination across local governments.
- Requires communities to think proactively and comprehensively, rather than reactively and incrementally.
- More effective concentration of growth and development in cities and urban areas, reducing sprawl. Urban growth boundaries have been key to guiding future development, while establishing processes to collect impact fees for needed funds.
- Clarification of the cost of development and who pays that cost
- GMA requires water, sewer, stormwater, and road planning. Thurston has done a good job at preventing sprawl along highway corridors into the rural areas.
- Encouraged public engagement in community land use issues.
- GMA protections of critical areas, particularly with regards to hazard protection.
- Olympia produces an annual progress report to show how the city has implemented its comprehensive plan.
- The Growth Management Hearings Board helps courts stay focused on other issues.
- Technical assistance from state agencies to local governments.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

When describing aspects of the growth planning framework that do not work well, participants discussed themes, including:

- Government is too fragmented to collaborate on issues and consider cumulative impacts of growth management.
- A lack of funding to assist small and rural communities with compliance. many lack the technical know-how and funding to undertake the tasks assigned to larger cities.
- Small towns must meet the same regulatory demands as large towns.
- Water rights legislation.
- School siting within the Urban Growth Area is unsuitable and expensive. Also, state funding for education arrives when students enroll, rather than following population projections.
- The framework assumes that growth can and must accommodate growth, but participants of the workshop suggest there may be limits to a community's capacity to grow.
- No process to include health and human services in planning, especially to address homelessness.
- The framework does not address retrofitting old and deficient infrastructure.
- The tax code lacks resources to adequately provide for government services.
- Insufficient clarity, predictability, and effective enforcement mechanisms to force small and/or local governments to comply, especially among state agencies.

- Hearings Board processes are incomplete and inconsistent. One example provided by participants was the process to review local actions only once an appeal is filed. Another issue was the hierarchy of planning frameworks, which do not leave space for local decision-making.
- Ineffective mediation regarding land use disputes
- Annexation laws lead to city taxpayers subsidizing the use of government infrastructure and services
- Areas with less than 1,000 people have the same authority as counties.
- The framework lacks an effective means of combating climate change, including emergency response preparation and hazard prevention for wildfires.
- Terminology in the framework creates preservation efforts that totally eliminate consumption of natural resources, some consumption should be allowed.
- Rural land owners have no way to pass along costs imposed by the GMA.
- The GMA does not apply to special districts like schools, water, sewer, and ports.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Some participants expressed a desire to give state agencies more authority to review and regulate. Others specified that state agencies should act consistently with the Growth Management Act. Some participants voiced a desire for increasing resources available to state agencies to improve policy administration. To improve hearings, the group discussed expanding cases the Growth Management Hearings Board oversees, rather than hearing cases in the Superior Courts. Others proposed making efforts to include electronic feedback from the public regarding land use hearings.

Some participants described a desire for a change in acreage requirements. Five-acre lot requirements are too large for a residence and too small for agricultural production. Others expressed a desire for high school civics education to focus on concrete aspects of planning and local and state governments.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials discussed the purpose and value of the growth planning framework offering a wide array of responses. Some pointed to the concentration of growth in urban areas, while preserving rural areas. Others described the purpose as a means to maintain infrastructure, serve growth, and preserve agricultural land. Some described it as a way to accommodate growth in a way that minimizes the cost of providing public services and negative impacts on the environment. Some saw the framework as a tool to help smaller communities identify how to zone land and provide services, while also protecting individual property rights. Others saw the growth planning framework as a way to preserve the economic wellbeing of smaller regions.

When describing what aspects of the growth planning framework work well, a variety of elected officials repeatedly emphasized the effective coordination on long-term planning, especially for housing and transit. Some elected officials mentioned the clear boundaries and sector designations within the implementation. Others spoke on the increased proximity of housing and transit within commercial districts. Some discussed the improved access to nature even for city residents. Some specifically mentioned the expansion of trails into cities. Some discussed how the framework's emphasis on water rights has made people more thoughtful regarding water usage. Others mentioned that overall, impact fees and annexation processes have improved. Some praised the public engagement component.

On aspects that the growth planning framework does not perform well, many spoke about the lack of state funding to accommodate infrastructure and public transportation needs of growing high-density communities. Others mentioned discrepancies between urban and rural communities, as rural communities feel more burdened by the framework. Others discussed revenue issues which particularly affect counties and expressed a desire for a smoother –or even more unilateral– annexation process. The discussion also surfaced issues with annexations that reduce county tax revenue, desiring a process that can offset costs. Some elected officials echoed concerns from the multisector workshop, calling for added components to the framework to address climate change and increase clarity for interpreting regulations. Others called for a more flexible vesting process to resolve unforeseen complications.

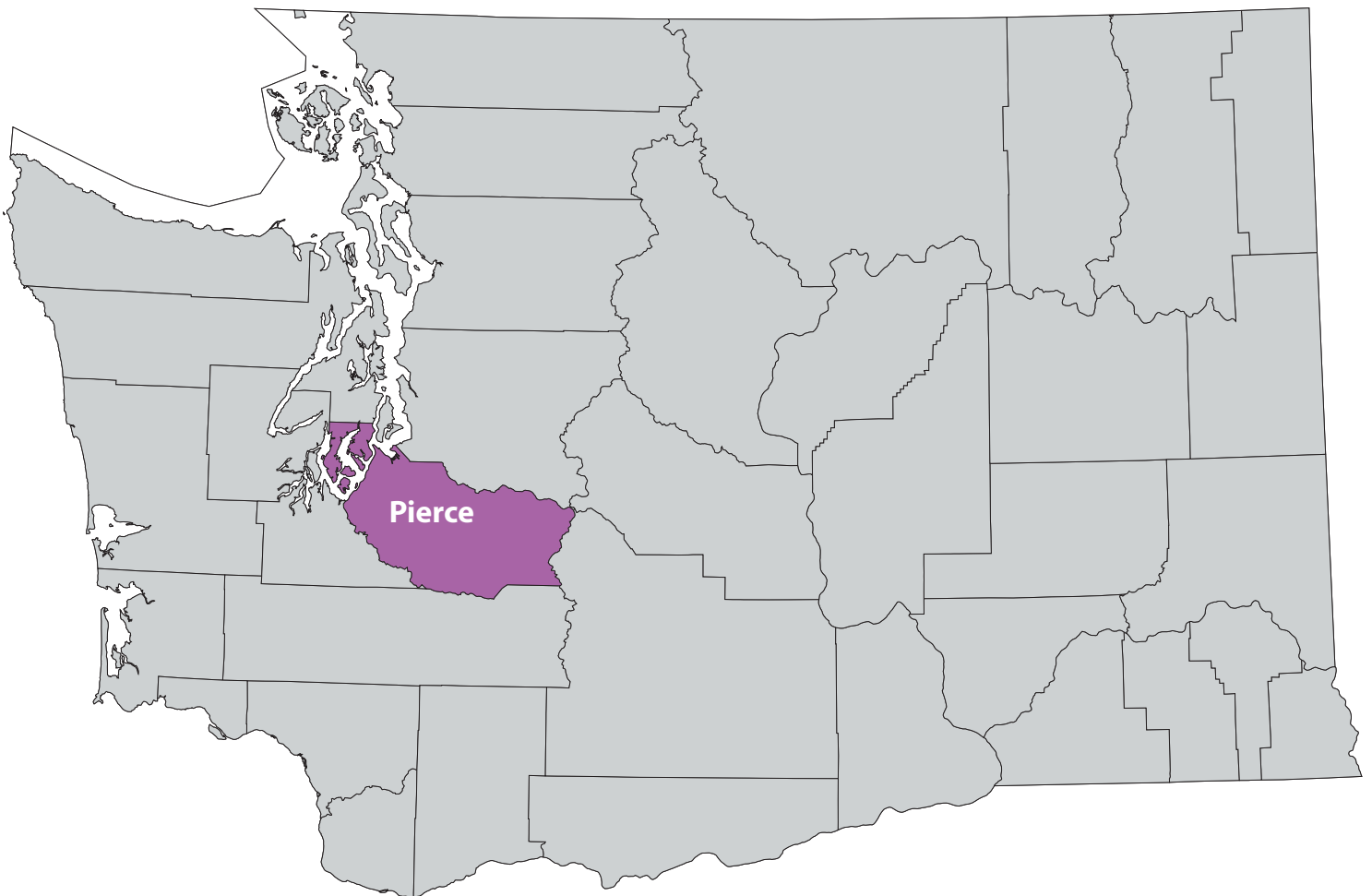
When looking to the future, some elected officials described a desire for retaining autonomy and rural character, as well as a desire for increased density and affordable amenities in more urban areas. Some spoke on the need to ensure that transit expansions occur in current or increasingly high population density areas. Many participants called for an overhaul on the tax system, including: a more progressive tax code, income tax, utility taxes, and removing the annual property tax cap. Some elected officials desired safer schools and living wage jobs in the area. The most widely held desire for the community was the preservation of the environment and increased access to nature. Some expressed a hope for more effective and adequately funded responses to environmental issues: not just clean up but addressing the root cause. Others described a hope for a revival of economic mobility. Some expressed a hope for increased state funding for infrastructure, affordable housing, and human services.

Others expressed a desire for more effective coordination between the federal government and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Some called for the elimination of the Boundary Review Board; others called for an expansion of impact fees to include impacts on state highways. Other called for increased civics and government literacy, beginning in high school, so that residents would have a better understanding of how different tax revenues are raised.

With regard to public engagement, some elected officials described how spurring involvement at the planning stage of the process is difficult. One suggestion was to integrate social media and multi-lingual approaches into outreach. Others expressed how costly newspaper ads are as a means of communication with the public at large.

When given the opportunity to comment on currently unaddressed issues, some spoke on potential tax code changes, including tax increment financing, retail sales, capital improvements, bonds, and other forms of raising government revenue. Some spoke on the need to further involve children in the public engagement process. Others expressed a desire for information sharing among counties regarding effective implementation regarding transit and high population density areas. Others expressed a desire to know how the definition of high density has changed over time, while others raised questions regarding what impact autonomous vehicles would have on the region. Some echoed multi sector concerns regarding acreage requirements for different zonings: 5 acres is too much for a residence and too small for a farm.

PIERCE WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

Decline of enlightenment and educational value

Cost of living increase while wages are stagnant in pierce county

Job growth

- Creation of mt. rainier national park
- Created attraction that draws huge numbers of visitors to rural areas

Big tech growth and influx of people from CA

Affordable housing

- 1800's western expansion of U.S.; statehood
- Establishment of state hospital
- Military presence
- Railway expansion
- 1900's increased industrialization
- Population growth
- Formation of ft Lewis / JBLN
- Incorporation of cities
- 2000's GMA implementation population growth technology

Specific to Tacoma

- It was originally planned as the larger port city compared to Seattle
- As such, pierce county was named after our 14th president but King was named after his V.P. William King

Biggest change? Probably the waterfront which was known for heavy (and dirty!) industry, such as Asarco plant while that's changing, the county still has an undeserved reputation for bad air, litter, crime, and an overall lower quality of life when compared to king, Snohomish, Thurston, and Kitsap counties

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Building of narrows bridge(s)

- Opened transportation to Kitsap / Olympic peninsulas
- Racial cultural economic diversity
- Tribal and military presence effects municipal operations
- Mental health of population affected by area

Building of I-5

- Defined much of our current transportation network

Job housing balance across Puget sound region

Repression and resurgence of Puyallup tribe

Settler colonialism

Passage of sound transit funding

Implementation of projects

Potential loss of orca population and reduction in salmon populations

Growth in the wild lands urban interface and concern with wildfire

McCleary Decision impacted equitable funding for rural schools

Scenic Byway laws rob rural property owners of personal property rights

Traffic congestion

Change in local economies from timber towns to bedroom communities

Closure of Mt. Rainier National Park in 2006-7 for 6 months due to flooding

Some of first signs of change in storm events and previews of new normal due to climate change

Pierce county comp. plan
voted down (1980)

Land Use Pattern

Rising rents and home prices
Housing affordability crisis

Grunge movement

Mt. Rainier

Eatonville area:

- Introduction of the timber industry
- 1916 school levy for construction: one of the first in the nation
- Homestead farmers: late 19th to late 20th century farms
- Introduction of Mt. Rainier as tourist destination
- End of the timber industry as heart of the area
- End of farming
- Transition to "bedroom community"

Growing awareness of
climate change and future
impacts

New pushes for legislation
increased tensions between
public and corporations

- Fort Lewis
- The Economy
- The transportation network

Re-industrialization

The Recession

2008 Recession

Subdivision developments put
on hold and now finally back
on the table, leading to lots
of new SFR housing now

- Creation of Lake Tapps
- Recreational opportunities
- Development pattern

Mr. Rainier / St. Helens

Natural Environment shapes
human development

- I-5 construction
- Major flood events
- Post-recession population boom w/in central Puget sound
- Current housing affordability concerns and homelessness crisis

Layers and layers of state
government

I-5 Road construction
(never ending)

Redlining and other
exclusionary housing policies
(ex: restrictive covenants)

Boom-bust cycles

e.g. leading to expulsion
of Chinese in economic
depression

Railroad terminus seeming
to be huge growth factor but
disappointing.

Continued impact on growth
through today

Jobs

- National Parks for the 21st century "the Vail Agenda" 1991

- Mt. Rainier National Park 1899 est.

- 2004 Pierce County "Directions Package" Title 18 update

Changes in military
installations- merging Ft. Lewis
and McChord

Extensive urban sprawl

- 1850s treaty wars
- Rise of valley farms
- World wars
- Highways
- Urbanization

Increasing the Right of Way
width of 167 - more people
moving here from S & N King
County

Lower land prices in Pierce
County / thus housing lower

GMA - 25 years ago

Housing Affordability

Change in City of Tacoma
leadership at City Manager
level of Police Chief David
Brame murdered his wife /
committed suicide

Port District Created 1918
-gateway for goods - domestic
and international

Osceola mudflow

5 mile backup of vehicles from
Nisqually entrance to Mt.
Rainier on SR 706

Unaffordability of King County

Unfunded mandates and top-down planning

Limited transit

Recession caused homeowners to sell and impacted towns

- Seattle growth
- The Great Recession
- The advent of the automobile
- New bus / transit services
- Climate change realities

Logging and western expansion: farming 100+

Closing mills negatively impacting small town (ELBE, republic population moved) 50+

School remains center of community – innovative designation and STEM center 10 yrs.

Changes around the Port- Expansion and tribal claims – then now

- Threats to watershed health
- Challenges in equitable opportunities for sensitive populations
- An unhealthy focus on economic growth as strategy for revitalization

Revitalization of Tacoma Downtown

- Rapid population growth
- Narrowing of opportunities in affordable housing
- Increased price of housing
- Rapid urban development

Pt. Ruston

Growth of JBLM

- Hudson Bay Company
- Railroads
- WWII
- Hudson Bay company established basic economy relationship with native American tribes
- Railroads – love/hate relationship with state and local governments; expanded economy and transportation
- WWII – Puget sound, Tacoma and Bremerton had major impacts

Forest management laws impacted logging industry forestry

GMA changed zoning on property causing loss of investment – enables those in urban areas to develop policies that impact rural property owners

WWII internment of Japanese citizens

Changed land ownership patterns

1917 creation of Camp Lewis
Foundation of today's JBLM

Ezra Meeker settling in Puyallup Valley

Recession of 2008

PSRC Vision 2040 adopting a triple bottom line as foundation for strategic planning

Point Ruston

-superfund cleanup of copper smelter site

- Growth associated with IT businesses
- Housing crisis
- Gentrification
- Traffic jam

Mt. Rainier mud flows

Established the geography of Puyallup Valley

- Railroad circa 1910 took away shoreline
- Loss of funding 2000 -loss of sales tax equalization funding
- Stunted growth of town
- Lack of sufficient funding

Large infrastructure improvements

- Increasing 15
- Narrows Bridge
- Ferry System
- Allowed access of convenient manner to get to previously remote areas

Sprawl increased need for services in rural areas

-
- Building of narrows bridge
 - SR 16 to SR 3 to Bremerton ship yard
 - Building of Narrows Bridge #3 (Tolled)
 - Increase of service economy
loss of working / living wage economy (industry)
-

-
- Inequity of funding for schools
 - Levy – more / 1000 for rural residents
 - Difficulty passing bonds due to high levy
-

Change in economic sectors

- Port of Tacoma
- Asarco
- Pulp mills
- Weyerhaeuser timber (closures)

Impact of GMA reorganization rule of counties vs cities

Role of schools / public education as a community resource

- Recreational
- social and health
- Cultural resource (TAM / Museum of Glass)

-
- Passage of Legislation: GMA, SEPA, shoreline management
 - Growth
 - Population economic
-

Car tab fees

Redlining and historically not loaning to POC

- Travel opportunities increased
 - Increased demand of large rural / suburban homes (white flight)
 - High cost of maintenance of infrastructure
-

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

When asked what influences their quality of life, participants discussed educational opportunities, availability of well-paying jobs, transportation and access to nature, and good public health. Next participants were asked what they need to thrive. Many spoke about needing good, family wage jobs and how many jobs and opportunities are going to Seattle and Tacoma, along with families and the younger generation. Some talked about needing to improve transportation systems and transit options. Others talked about the increasing cost of living, how it is impacting communities, and the need for investments in public infrastructure such as good schools, parks and urban green spaces, and community centers. Some said local NGO were needed. A number of participants said that environmentally critical areas and protection of ag and natural resource lands is needed. Participants also talked about needing affordable healthcare, reliable internet, affordable housing options, access to mental healthcare, safe environments, and finding solutions to food deserts.

Participants also discussed resistance to change in their communities. Some suggested more open mindedness around discussions about growth, because once people accept the idea of change, then the community can work together to identify choices and desires. Some suggested identifying what community members have in common, rather than what divides them.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Some participants described a hope for retaining rural character and a sense of freedom from regulation. Others desired fewer units of governments and less government interfering in individual and local choice. A desire for climate change mitigation was also discussed. Some mentioned a desire to be able to live in their community long term, which currently is more difficult due to cost of living pushing younger generations out of the area. Others talked about the different desires and lifestyle choices of younger generations that are not being met. Many participants expressed a desire for having access to nature, a healthy environment, clean air and water, and protection from flooding. Participants also talked about needing accesses to reliable internet and addressing the impact technology advances will have on the future.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

When discussing the purpose and value of the growth planning framework, some participants said it was to protect ag and natural resource industries. Others spoke about the value of protecting critical areas. Others spoke on the framework's efforts to promote interjurisdictional coordination Others discussed the growth planning framework's ability to provide predictability for decision makers. Participants mentioned resource management and infrastructure improvements. Some discussed the frameworks

desire to include and synthesize a diversity of perspectives, while others praised the growth planning framework's goal to minimize urban sprawl.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When discussing aspects of the growth planning framework that work well, some mentioned improvements to public transportation. Others described the environmental protections and efforts to promote interjurisdictional coordination.

The Shoreline Management Act was mentioned as working well due to there being guidelines and state agency review authority. Others commented on how the SEPA checklist has worked to increase transparency, while others disagreed, saying it is redundant. Some mentioned efforts to reduce urban sprawl and urban growth areas designations have worked well, and that the urban growth boundary in Pierce County has not moved. And the multifamily tax exemptions process was mentioned as being successful for jurisdictions that can use it.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants identified the following as not working well:

- Small and rural communities are overburdened with the costs meeting GMA, SEPA, and SMA requirements and money going to meet these requirements is coming at the cost of meeting other important community needs, such as police, health, and addressing opioid addiction. Some suggested the GMA have another option for small and rural ar-eas, saying it is unfair that the city of Gold Bar and the city of Bellevue have the same planning requirements.
- The framework preventing helpful sewer expansions.
- Excessive cost of publishing notices in newspapers.
- Prioritization of restoring wetlands over restoring agricultural and natural resource lands.
- Constraints on where schools can be built.
- City annexations reducing county tax revenue.
- LAMIRDS' impact on economic development and growth.
- SEPA is redundant and GMA requires local governments to address nearly all of the same things as SEPA. When GMA was created prior laws like SEPA or the Planning Enabling Act were never looked at to see how they related to one another.
- The program that provided financial incentives for annexation was successful, but has since lapsed and there is now no financial incentive to a city to annex these lands.
- There is a lack of clarity about what uses are appropriate in the unincorporated portions of the urban growth area.
- The exemption of state highways from level of service standards is not working well. One suggestion was to have smaller state highways subject to the requirements for concurrency so that they can collect impact fees.
- Farmland has been diminished over time. One suggestion given was to require the replacement of farmlands similar to GMA requirements for the replacement of wetlands that are lost.
- Better coordination between special purpose districts, cities and counties, is needed.
- Growth Management Hearings Board and appeal process is not working well. One suggestion

was to have the process instead be similar to the process used for SMA and to allow for “safe harbors” for local governments.

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*
 - The Growth Management Hearing Board process and how courts interact with their decisions.
 - Trade-off between flexibility and certainty in growth planning.
 - Promotion/improvement of high school civics classes.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials identified the following as what they saw to be the purpose and value of growth planning:

- To minimize urban sprawl.
- To give a framework, structure, and guidance to how to plan and manage.
- To coordinate development of transportation infrastructure.
- Growth can create challenges in housing, economic development and transportation, so a framework assures that these areas are not considered in isolation.
- It protects the natural environment.
- The framework allows community members and government planners and decision-makers to pause and think about decisions before they are made.
- It accounts for the cumulative effects of growth in a region but should also allow for some individual choices by individual communities.
- To maximize efficiencies in capital expenditures.

When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework work well, elected officials said it has created interjurisdictional cooperation, environmental protection, and the protection of natural resource industries. Others talked about how it has allowed for the public to participate in planning and create plans that meet local community visions and needs. Some talked about how it has provided tools to collect impact fees so that growth pays for some of its impacts.

Elected officials provided many comments about what is not working well and ideas about improvements that could be made:

- There is no funding to do growth management planning or implementation.
- GMA should incorporate the uniqueness of place. For example, the six largest cities in Pierce County are unincorporated areas, which is contrary to the Growth Management Act that urban growth should primarily be in cities.
- Bethel School District and other school districts have large parts of their area and students outside of the urban growth area but are prevented from building in areas where their students and communities are. Electeds talked about how it is difficult to get the money to purchase the land needed to expand schools to accommodate growth and increasing enrollments and

this cost is then compounded by having to place facilities in areas that are too expensive or problematic to site those schools. Also mentioned was the challenges of putting portables onto existing schools if the site is outside the UGA.

- Pierce County has a large UGA which has hindered the ability for cities to expand their UGAs or population allocation.
- Many people have and are moving to Pierce County because they are being priced out from living in Seattle. People are living in Pierce County but driving to work in Seattle every day. The lack of equity of job distribution across the state impacts families and local governments. One suggestion is to look at economic development, housing, and transportation under GMA in a more holistic way/at a regional level that allows for regional allocations. Others suggested including planning and providing housing, transportation, and jobs for people who are currently living here and not only for projections of people yet to come.
- Annexation is not working well. Some suggested creating a more collaborative framework for cities and counties to be able to annex land in a way that benefits both and does not financially hurt either jurisdiction. Others suggested looking at ways to revise the tax structure to ensure the county is still able to raise the revenue needed to provide services.
- Job centers, housing, and transportation need to be better connected and planned for.
- Focus and assistance is needed to ensure agriculture is economically viable long term. Some suggested allowing some flexibility for farmers to have an allocated amount of non-ag use on their property if there was a plan in place to ensure the land would continue to keep the majority of land as productive agriculture.
- Concurrency requirements on state highways is also needed.
- The SEPA process works well for some and does not work well for others. A collaborative process to look at SEPA is needed. One suggestion was to develop a pre-environmental review, a subarea planned action, that saves subsequent projects from having to do additional SEPA review case by case, and that helps developers prepare reliable pro forma up front.
- Equity is a missing element in growth planning and the decisions being made regarding growth need to be looked at through an equity lens. Another suggestion was to have equity added as an element of environmental review under SEPA.

When asked what people in their communities' desire for the future, elected officials provided the following comments:

- People want a place where they can live close to where they work.
- People want to have a place where they can live, work, play, and dream.
- People want to maintain a small town feel.
- People want walkable communities.

When discussing public engagement, elected officials described the time cost of getting involved, and proposed using social media as a less costly form of public engagement. Others expressed a desire for more interactive engagement opportunities like the Roadmap workshops.

When discussing areas not yet covered in the workshop, some brought up the idea of generational planning and planning that ensures a community is desirable for the next generation.

MASON WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Hood Canal (Shoreline of statewide significance)
- Union Marina (Fuel)
- Alderbrook
- Union = Small thriving community

GMAC huge committee several years of work

2 UGAs established 1990's Shelton Belfair

ALLYN originally a village changed to UGA after sewer brought in to correct North Bay

Loss of 60% of ARL (agricultural resource land) since 1993

Urbanization's impact of aquatic habitats

Ocean acidification, stormwater runoff, salmon/ steelhead/orca populations at risk, erosion and sedimentation

- Substantial decrease in family wage jobs
- Lack of affordable workforce housing
- Expanded economic impact of agriculture

- William G Reed Library
- Little Creek Casino & Resort, and Salish Cliff & golf course
- Renovation of Alderbrook Inn
- Upcoming YMCA in Shelton

Flooding

- Skok Valley
- County Wide
- Record: December 3, 2007

Logging , Timber production

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

Belfair subarea plan adopted 2004, has not been updated or amended

Retail = change in how consumers shop (online growth)

Economic development must be broader based

Spotted owl 1980's

- 100 years – homesteading by water
- 1940s- North end Mason county, naval base Kitsap
- Send CSYU
- 100 agreement between Simpson/ USFS

- Highway 101 relocation
- Renewed downtowns/ city core

- Municipal tax laws (voter initiatives)
- Change in services/ priorities more community engagement

Logging

GMA required the designation of Long-Term Commercial Forest Lands- makes up a large part of the county

Decline in timber industry, brings need for other industrial jobs in area

As natural resources industry declines- lack of "fresh" dollars causes decay

Loss of economic opportunity has an adverse effect on social determinants of health

- Loss of timber industry
- GMA- the interpretation of it thru WAC's
- Loss of jobs
- Inability to develop due to rules

Lots of individuals start and end their career in Mason county. They often leave then come back

- Highway 101 bypass
- Fred Myer / Walmart, and associated north end infrastructure and business development
- Downtown improvements – Railroad Ave. beautification

More people moving into area to escape nearby population centers in other counties – more affordable taxes and more affordable land

- Logging
- Hood Canal union
- Tribe to reservation
- Cushman Dam – Impact to river
- Ongoing land speculation
- State Route 106 along Hood Canal
- =Human impact to land/ place
- Lack of government

The opioid crisis

Escalating humanitarian issues with extensive costs to communities; no easy answers in sight

The crash of 2008 caused loss of 50% planning, building, and health capacity in county government

Still not recovered

Population growth

Increasing demand for housing, rising costs of housing, homelessness epidemic

- Olympic College Shelton
- 2017 School District (\$68 million bond issue)
- Sierra Pacific purchase of Simpson mill
- Shelton Civic Center

Commercial and industrial growth and jobs needed to support growing population base in rural areas – making development possible

- Logging/ Timber industry is King
- Natural forest land shaped the land use and management
- Growth of Bremerton/ Silverdale and Olympia “dividing” Mason county into North and South

Natural resource industry

Timber on the decline, shellfish on the rebound?

Economic transition from timber dependent community, due to regulatory change

Changing demographics due to out migration of younger generation and in migration of people from urban environments

Great recession saw lots of foreclosures and shift to high population of rentals – reluctance to require inspection of rentals even for health issues

Cheaper land and homes make Mason County a bedroom county for families

Last 20-30 years – loss of basic employment, economic base; loss of intellectual capital with loss of research center

Establishment of Lake Limerick as a planned development

- maybe second largest population center in county – not incorporated – services provided by HOA -1966

Last 20 years – change from recreational to residential community

Demographic schisms– age, income, working v. retired, engagement in governance

- Logging fell off/ methods changed
- Left few jobs for someone with little education (illiteracy)
- At some point it became okay to clearcut and no “control” with sprayed herbicides
- Lots of other impacts...

- Lots of seasonal worker no real “main” employer (few career opportunities)

- High unemployment rates, high dropout rates
- Food stamps and food banks are life savers for many
- Perceived drug issues – high dropout rates/ young parents few career job opportunities – many living in woods off-grid (not by choice– homelessness)

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Some participants said that the high level of poverty in Mason County influences the quality of life. This has resulted in homelessness and criminal activities becoming big issues here. They said that health care is an increasing issue as providers pull their services closer to Olympia, which is part of the tremendous amount of economic leakage from Shelton to Thurston County.

Some said that the changing demography in Mason County also influences the quality of life. Others said that education is important to quality of life, but that better schools and access to education in Mason County is needed.

Many participants shared their appreciation for the county's majestic scenery of mountains, forests, and shorelines. Some said that for Mason to thrive in the future, the most must be made of these natural assets to spur employment, for example, in recreation. Others said that protection of the scenery is important to thrive because it is so important to the sense of place for Mason County. Some described how proximity and improved access to urban amenities in Thurston and Kitsap counties could provide components of improvements to their quality of life.

Some participants also said that there is a need for educational and employment opportunities that provide living wages or support a family. Others mentioned the need for affordable housing for all income levels, individuals, families, and ages. Some said that there is an increasing need for social services, mainly health care services; some further specified the need for social health services to address the opioid crisis.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Some expressed a desire to retain the rural character of the region. Some specified the importance of open spaces and small town community feel in ensuring this. Others spoke on the need for living wage jobs. Some discussed their desire for educational opportunities that can lead to local employment. Others reiterated the need for increased supply of affordable housing. Some expressed a desire for more effective coordination between the state and local jurisdictions in terms of delivering services. Others said they wished for increased incentives for planning and evaluating local efforts.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Some participants described the purpose of the growth planning framework as a set of policy tools that balance environmental protection with the need for economic growth. Others added that it strives to accomplish this while respecting local issues and needs. Some articulated the framework's purpose as a tool to improve economic growth; others mentioned it can also improve health care services. Some discussed the framework's purpose to promote affordable housing and public utility provisions. Others mentioned the framework's usefulness as a tool to implement environmental protections.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework work well, some participants spoke on how the GMA promotes density and protects natural resources. Others touched on the framework's emphasis on using urban infrastructure to direct growth. Some said they appreciated the framework's providing guidelines that operationalize local initiatives to achieve the broad goals of the GMA. Others said that the flexibility to do subarea plans enabled a specific focus on communities with very different visions, needs, and assets, such as Belfair or Allyn.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants named several themes including:

- State environmental land use policies, including SEPA and the SMA, constrain economic growth and place unmanageable burdens on local governments with very limited capacity.
- State technical assistance is too limited. Some said that Commerce has too few staff and can tell you what doesn't work but not what does work.
- Regulations underperform in managing negative externalities of agricultural production.
- There is a lack of oversight of the Growth Management Hearing Board.
- Inconsistent application of regulations such as wastewater management and septic systems.
- Lack of provisions to support environmental protections within Urban Growth Areas.
- Lack of state funding to do the required planning or to pay for needed infrastructure.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Participants said that the most important thing that is missing is state funding to do GMA planning and implementation.

- *What additional data or research is needed to inform possible changes to the state growth planning framework?*

Some participants would like to see data used to evaluate the return on investment for land use policies and planning, map wetlands across the state, and inform the coordination of comprehensive planning under the GMA.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials agreed with many of the ideas from the multi-sector workshop regarding the need for increased economic development, greater funding from the State to do the required planning, and greater deference to the decisions of local elected officials. Several of them said that people in Mason County are proud of the “small town feel” of its communities and that independence and identity are strong values here, so there is little enthusiasm for State rules like the GMA that take away from that.

Several elected officials said that the Growth Management Hearings Board process is not working well. They said that the Board makes decisions that inflict great costs on local governments trying to comply with the GMA. Electeds talked about how the fear of appeals reduces the willingness of local governments to take the risk of being innovative. Some of said that GMA appeals should proceed directly to Superior Court, or perhaps be decided by a hearing examiner. Others suggested that perhaps there should be a population threshold below which a county would be exempted from the GMA or have less onerous requirements than large counties like Pierce or King and that it is unfair to expect Mason County to compete with large counties with far greater resources.

Some said that the GMA should provide greater flexibility for local solutions, such as allowing cluster development in the rural area or even the creation of a new community outside of urban growth areas to respond to market demands while avoiding environmental constraints like contaminated soils or sea level rise. They suggested other ideas like re-working the provisions for Local Areas of More Intensive Rural Development to increase the access of small communities to retail services and perhaps allowing new ways to deal with solid waste.

There was strong agreement among the elected officials that the 1% property tax limitation prevents local governments from being able to pay for providing state mandated services because the rate of inflation and overhead increases run at 3.5% annually. They said that there needs to be an examination of the role of counties and how they can pay for the responsibilities that the State assigns to counties. They also said that although there is a lot of land in Mason County, the laws prevents them from any meaningful economic development that would help pay for the services needed in the rural area.

Several of the elected officials said that the County would benefit from having assistance in explaining how to better coordinate with other units of government like the City, Ports, PUDs, utility and school districts. Some thought that the fact that the fourteen GMA planning goals are not prioritized is problematic and suggested the State should prioritize them so that people can focus on “what we are truly trying to get at.” Others said that perhaps the local governments should be able to do their own prioritization of the planning goals.

CLARK WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

- Natural resources
- River
- Transport

- Recreation
- Hydro power
- Bridges to Oregon
- I-5
- Rail
- I-205

- Economic Transition from natural resources
- Fort Vancouver
- Oregon Land Use Planning Law

- Death of the Columbia river crossing project
- Downtown Vancouver redevelopment efforts
- 205 Bridge opening

- Fort Vancouver
- Kaiser shipyard during WWII and relocation of housing
- I-205 opens in 1982
- Population growth and growth of cities

Working with Port for economic development

Defunding conservation districts

- Fort Vancouver – establishment of the fur trade. I believe people who reside here have a sense of adventure and a love of the outdoors—
- The Columbia River defines our economy and recreation

Portland, Oregon it's growth as a city

- Lewis and Clark expedition
- Hudson's Bay company and tribal multi-cultural villages and servitude (population mix)
- Chkalov Transpolar flight (Russian immigration)

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

The region was defined by logging to support the paper mills. The mills location was dependent on hydro-electric energy and water transport. Affects the present by the population that grew around the mill town.

The region was greatly influenced by fur trade and transport on the river between cities. The trade brought together a mix of cultures and a richer place today.

Abundant fish and Wildlife that supported a thriving native American population

- Bridges
- Yacolt burn
- Establishment of Ft. Vancouver
- Lewis and Clark
- Hudson Bay competition Britain vs U.S.
- Portland vs Seattle influence
- Not as many development options as San Francisco and Seattle

Transition from native space not Clark county

Agriculture too industrial to today's hybrid

- WWII -era development
- Importance of the Columbia river
- Focus of development
- Trade / transportation
- Community identity
- Connection between jurisdictions / destinations throughout the region
- Shift of food production from local to regional / global processing and distribution systems

WWI and WWII both of which led to temporary and permanent change in Vancouver

Mix of community development and financing structures that have driven housing development investments into the current housing affordability crisis across social/ economic strata sans the 1%

Lack of integration of planning structures across very local to statewide / national / global systems

- Pro-growth and development county councilors
- Vanport floods – increase in people here
- Death of Columbia river crossing project
- Being a border city

Glenn Jackson I-205 Bridge opening

Hudson Bay company and Fort Vancouver

Camp Bonneville

Vancouver annexation of cascade park in 1995 (largest in the state's history)

205 bridge

Population growth

- Opening of the interstate bridge creating access to more jobs across the river
- Region of many small farms and orchards
- The largest settlement of people connected to the Old Apostolic Lutheran Church in the nation

I-205

Revitalization programs / efforts

Conservation vs port / rail growth industrial efforts

Other resource extraction industries (fishing) agriculture

A transition from those industries to current and future economies

- Exploration
- Competing land claims -> Portland
- Railroad
- Bridge
- 2 wards
- Bonneville
- 2nd bridge
- GMA divide
- Homes for Tax money
- Annexation
- Bridge collapse

• 1000s of years of native American life

• Geologic creation of the Columbia river gorge

• Hudson's Bay company arrival 1824

• Lewis and Clark 1805

• I-5

• Bridge

• Fort Vancouver

Eruption of Mt St. Helens

• 1920s KKK presence

• White supremacists recruiting here, causing violence

• 1950-2000 increase then decline of manufacturing -spruce mill, Kaiser ship yards, Alcoa, Weyerhaeuser

• Independent newspapers

• 1930s 40s building of the dams Bonneville, grand coulee

• 1960s 1970 pacific NW was invisible to rest of country

• Columbia river as a major crossroads, transportation route and boat building center, even before white settlement

• 1805 Lewis and Clark expedition came through and camped here

• 1820s Fort Vancouver established. It had a multi-cultural workforce including natives, whites, metis, French, scots, Hawaiians

• 1820-1970 resource-based economy fishing, logging, farming

Coming of the Americans and Europeans in early 1800s, depriving Native Americans of their homeland. The passing of the growth management act by state legislature in 1990s and Clark county comp plan passed a few years later

• Mt. St. Helens eruption

• The closeness to the west coast fur trade

• Dams on the Columbia

• The ship yard growth during WWII

- U.S. Army forcing out Fort Vancouver
- WWI airplane production
- WWII warship production
- I-5 bridge
- I-205 Bridge
- Lucky logger brewery closing

Increase in population puts strain on resources financial and natural

- Columbia river crossing project failure (last few years shorter term)
- Expansion of PDX international service has supported business community
- I-205 bridge opening influence east county development

Division of economic classes and increase of homelessness

- Climate change
- Increasing wildfires
- Weeks of smoke-filled air
- Starfish die-off
- Killer whales dying
- Ocean acidification affecting our grab and shellfish harvests
- Endangered salmon / decreasing runs
- Decreased snow pack

1917 the I-5 bridge opens

- Dams on the Columbia
- Mt. St. Helens eruption
- Lewis and Clark finding the place
- The fur trade outpost – fort Vancouver
- Ship building during the war

- Failure of the I-5 bridge “replacement” project
- Columbia gorge scene area act

- Structural changes to farming nationally and locally
- Development draw down of ground water supply

- Proximity to Portland and the I-5 bridge
- Eruption of mt. St. Helens
- Building of I-5 and I-205
- Creation / establishment of Ridgefield NWR
- Dams on the Columbia and Snake River

- Colonization settlement
- Expiration
- Development
- Draining wetlands and channels
- Removing forests
- Tire trains

Center of trade and beginning exploitation of natural resources by white men

Agricultural base of economic development into the 1960s

- A new wave of local political activism and division – women’s marches
- Defunding the conservation district
- The Fort Vancouver national trust acquisition of the academy. Preservation and protection of local history

- Vancouver waterfront project
- Land bridge across hwy 14

Decrease in public’s willingness to support community / regional projects with their time and money

- Located on Columbia river
- Fort Vancouver a meeting place, Hudson’s Bay company
- Intersection of North – South East – west rail lines
- Damming of the Columbia river
- Took advantage of cheap power
- Transition from “old” industries to “new” lumber and aluminum high tech industries (silicon water manufacture)
- Construction of I-205 bridge allowed easy access to Portland international airport for “new” industries located in Camos and East Vancouver
- Plans for 2-5 bridge replacement ceased

Building of I-5 freeway and Columbia river bridges linking Vancouver and Clark county with state and region

- Global trade
- Hudson's Bay company
- River agriculture exports
- River commerce
- Connection to the river
- Shipyards WWI and WWII
- Fishing
- Hydroelectricity
- Industry transformation
- Resource manufacturing tech all still here

- Wetlands – prior to Hudson Bay company beavers flooded the area. Drained wetlands
- Terrific fish runs and habitat for fish
- GMA partitioned county for new uses
- Failure of CRC leading to gridlock

1980's= 1990's – protection of the Columbia River Gorge

Development of the Gorge as a recreational mecca

2012 home rule in the county
2008 present increasing rents and homelessness

2018 defeat of the largest oil terminal in the country from getting here

2014 development of the waterfront development project

- Population growth
- Proximity to Oregon's stringent growth management
- Mt. St. Helens eruption

- Eruption of mt. St. Helens
- Growth of Vancouver – no longer a “bedroom community”
- Creation of mt. St. Helens national volcanic monument (visited by millions)
- Inward migration due to beautiful natural environment

Loss of resource lands for local farming

- Population growth
- Development of land management practices
- Development of transportation / highways
- Housing – lack of affordable / lack of consideration of density
- Oil transport / probs
- Lack of consideration for minorities
- Transport / housing / sustainability are all problematic

Camp Bonneville 3,840-acre former department of defense weapons training site for 85 years

Sense of reclaiming the land is prevalent in our neighborhood

The creation of the character and culture of rural resource lands with a predominance of small acreage parcels

People continue to want to live that small parcel rural and resource lifestyle

Columbus Day windstorm

- Construction of I-5
- Construction 205 bridge
- Mt. St. Helens eruption
- Larger corporations moving to Clark county
- Addition of WSU Vancouver campus as a higher education option
- The great recession
- Recovery from recession

- Mt. St. Helens eruption
- Lewis and Clark expedition
- Fort Vancouver settlement
- Annexation
- Tribal affairs

Center of trade for 1st nations

Clark county population doubled in 25 years

I don't remember exact dates this happened

Shared boundaries with Portland and explosive population growth

- Rivers of commerce. The ppl.
- Bridge access
- Increased urbanizations
- Border county
- Agri-shipbuilding – next?

- WWII
- Construction of interstate bridge – 1917
- Separation of Washington / Oregon 1848

-
- Waterfront development – very recent
 - I-205 bridge
 - Investment into infrastructure
 - Better performing schools than Portland leading to increased flow of students to WA
 - Rising cost of housing
 - Human services siting ordinance
 - Increase traffic from Clark county to Portland
-

Senate bill 100 in Oregon that required planning and urban growth areas: constrained land supply across the river

GMA

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Participants identified many topics that influence the quality of life in Clark County, such as land use policy, environmental concerns, education, housing, transportation planning, and economic development. While some participants described a shortage of small lots available outside of the city limits, others acknowledged the benefit of compact, prosperous urban development. Participants also discussed the importance of green spaces, mountains, and the natural environment near both cities and rural communities. Such proximity also creates challenges for land management and conservation, such as impacts to wetlands and shorelines.

Some participants described Clark county as a largely suburban rather than rural or urban environment. Attendees suggested that more amenities, access to healthy food, decreased dependency on fossil fuels, and increasing diversity and inclusion efforts as vital for the county.

Participants also discussed the need to adapt or respond to external pressures from out-of-state planning decisions in Portland, Oregon. Other participants raised concerns with state land use regulation, desiring less regulations and long-term planning beyond 10-year intervals.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Workshop participants identified a wide range of values and needs for the future. With respect to engagement, participants reported a need to synthesize a variety of perspectives from rural/urban and older/younger residents to generate community buy-in. Additionally, there is a challenge in extending access to decision-making processes to the public.

Participants expressed concerns regarding climate change, affordable housing, pervasive new technologies, education quality, and brain drain. Other challenges included excessive amounts of regulation, including some participants' desire to waive GMA regulations in their entirety in an effort to preserve the rural character of the county. Others voiced a desire for long-term residency, the ability for families to not be disrupted or displaced by growth. Some participants identified issues with funding for growth management planning and implementation. There was an additional concern over the political influence of special interests, which creates an unequal playing field for decision-making.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Some participants valued the framework for attempting to protect irreplaceable resources and sustainably manage growth through environmental protections. Others appreciated the framework for articulating a clear purpose for both rural and urban communities. Coordinating and consulting various

public and private sectors, in accordance with the local values, was another value of the framework.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Some participants mentioned that the growth planning does an effective job at providing certainty and predictability for developers. Others noted the framework's efforts to coordinate various government entities as a means to minimize large future costs and identify tradeoffs. Some touched on the benefit of requiring a plan for growth. Others mentioned the benefits of conserving natural resource lands and industries. Some touched on the importance of planning for needed infrastructure.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Participants described a variety of aspects of the growth planning framework that do not work well. Recurring themes included:

- The lengthy and costly litigation process of the Growth Management Hearing Board
- Inadequate funding. Some mentioned that property tax increases caps further hinder counties' ability to raise funds.
- Urban v. Rural. Participants voiced a concern that urban areas force their will on rural areas and that rural areas bear a disproportionate burden of cost for complying with the growth planning framework.
- Regulations are too convoluted, contradictory, and limit the rights of property owners.
- Government institutions do not coordinate effectively within the framework. Some specified that update cycles in particular contribute to incongruence among institutions.

Additional aspects mentioned include:

- The framework allows some jurisdiction to opt out of affordable housing requirements.
 - The annexation process does not allow a smooth transition of developed areas from county jurisdiction to city jurisdiction.
 - Insufficient mechanisms to incentivize rural land owners to not develop.
 - Concurrency windows result in growth that is not resource use efficient.
 - The framework's zoning requirements for large lots has hurt property values in Clark County, because previously even rural plots have been relatively small.
 - Lack of public education about the framework.
 - The framework protects farm and forest lands, only because of the appeals process pursued by community members.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

Participants identified the following as missing from the framework:

- Components to address climate change, particularly for waterfront properties.
- Opportunities to address the rural/urban divide.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Elected officials began the workshop describing the purpose and value of the growth planning framework. Some pointed to the long-term planning structure as a means of protecting various types of lands. Others mentioned the improved effectiveness and efficiency that the framework provides for utilities. Some described the interjurisdictional coordination, others pointed to the increased centralization of power at the State level. Some simply said the framework prevents urban sprawl.

When describing aspects of the framework that work well, some elected officials pointed to the framework's effective use of various types of land. Some spoke on the framework's efforts to take public input, others pointed to transportation management. Some pointed to improvements in infrastructure, others reiterated the effective interjurisdictional coordination among government institutions such as improvements in sharing of information among government agencies, and public mindset to think long-term and large scale when it comes to planning for the community and the future. Some spoke on improvements to local control, others discussed the effective standard setting for various regions along the Columbia river.

When describing aspects of the framework that do not work well, some elected officials began by reiterating concerns regarding ineffective zoning laws that were discussed during other workshops, specifically regarding zoning plot size. Others talked about how there is a lack of flexibility in the framework making it difficult to address local issues. Others touched on aspects of ineffective interstate agency coordination. Some pointed to issues regarding designation of prime agricultural lands, specifically that the designation does not consider the productivity of soils types. Others touched on the incongruence of housing requirements and lack of tax funding. Some discussed the framework's current exclusion of economic growth within tribal owned lands.

Some described a lack of effective mechanisms to prevent growth without using specific grants for infrastructure growth. Others discussed how the framework prohibits building of new schools in school districts with rapidly growing student populations. Some expressed a desire for the framework to account for de-designation of agricultural lands. Others touched on a general fear of wide sweeping agricultural regulations. Some spoke on the need for more land to develop for housing. Others described how the ineffective plot size for farms just outside the urban areas is prohibiting long-term growth.

When discussing what communities desire for the future, elected officials began by talking about have access to open space and natural lands near urban areas. Others touched on the desire for moderate, planned, and balanced growth, some added a related note about hoping to ensure that growth occurs but does not pave over the county. A variety of participants discussed the trade-offs of preserving autonomy at the local level and ensuring adequate housing is built where it is needed.

Elected officials also talked about community values. This included: the desire for good schools and big yards, independence from Portland, a healthy work/play balance, a mixture of population densities, and more developed downtown areas.

Some spoke on aspects marginally related to the growth planning framework, such as the public desire for enlightened leaders who recognize that coordination among jurisdictions is needed, and that there are times when compromises and tradeoffs will have to be made. Others touched on a desire for increased public outreach/education regarding options for political actions available to elected officials. With regards to public engagement, some touched on how there is room for public input, but the public does not give as much input as decisions makers would like. Others discussed the desire to have public input regarding broad area-wide issues, rather than at the project specific level. Some described discrepancies between public understanding of growth management policy, and the complexity of policy design and implementation.

SKAMANIA & KLICKITAT WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

Construction of mainstem CR power system enabled cheap power production, transport of goods & irrigations, but has altered the landscape and agricultural resources

Rural electrification

Ignoring watershed boundaries in favor of artificial s-r-t definitions

Treaty of 1855

Passage of Col Gorge National Scenic Area Act 1986

European settlement displacing tribes

Building dams and impacting salmon runs

- Columbia River Historic Highway
- Funded and now rehabilitated by boosters from Portland
- This Oregon-side investment ensures Oregon-side benefits
- Similar Washington-side boosters / investment never occurred.

- Growth of high-tech businesses
- Ability to work remotely so people can live and work with no commute
- Increase in travel marketing = increase in tourism

- National scenic area act
- Bonneville dam construction
- Timber industry and its changes
- Columbia river highway
- Landslides

High tech companies, such as Insitu located here bringing high tech jobs. Resulting in upscale restaurants, breweries, wineries.

Tourism has driven economic growth in recent decades which has pushed residential development

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

- Manifest Destiny
- Railroad
- Cars

Mid-century was the hub of a vast trading network for thousands of years and one of the richest freshwater fisheries in native North America all based on salmon (and other migratory fishes) this supported thriving tribal communities until the CR power system disrupted that

- Col. Gorge National Scenic Area destination
- NW Forest Plan

- Weyerhaeuser – timber industry
- Mt. Saint Helens eruption
- Windsurfer “discovery” of the Gorge
- Salmon runs and collapses
- Orchards, Wheatfield, vineyards – agriculture
- National forest legislation (1908)
- Tribal presence “big river”
- Dams – cheap hydro

Isolation from rest of regional area

- 10 years – growth with Insitu, new residents more educated workforce – more needs for housing
- 25 years – changes in federal forest management – less harvesting, loss of timber and mill jobs
- 50 years – post WWII – slow growth unlike big cities and suburbs. Rural natural resource-based economy. Federal Forests were harvested and managed for products, jobs and mills
- 100 years

Windsurfing began in 1980s
Brought adventuresome spirits from all over the world to the Gorge, many to live here

- Missoula Floods & Basalt / Flood Basals
- Human occupation of the area, time immemorial and white immigrants
- Donation land claim act & tribal treaties
- Racial / racist laws in original constitutions (Oregon at least)

Forest management from 1908 to Northwest Forest Plan

National Scenic Act

- Consolidation and land holdings by large timber companies
- Development of systems for irrigation
- SEPA has turned as contentious
- Hydro first now wind farms.

- Oregon trail / settlement
- Native American past & present
- Logging history
- Sam hill's legacy and vision
- Northwest forest plan
- National scenic area designation
- Public lands and recreation growth

Wind sports – growth in popularity in the 80's

Wineries, orchards

100 years ago, they built roads and railroads in the Gorge then came the automobile...

50 years ago, dams and industrial development brought new residents to what had been forestry and farming economy

- 5/18/80 – eruption of St. Helens – putting us on the map
- 11/17/86 CGNSA – putting us more on the map
- 6/23/90 – Northern spotted owl listed in EDA
- 10/30/00 – SRS – secure rural schools and community self-determination act 2000.
- 80's Mt. St. Helens
- 86 NSA
- 90 spotted owl
- 90 secure rural schools
- Waters of the U.S.

- Arrival of salmon
- Volcanoes-geology – ice age flood
- Arrival of white settlers and displacement of tribes
- White water recreation
- Removal of Condit dam
- Scenic area legislation

- 1930 building of dams
- 1950 building of freeway on the Oregon side
- 1980 decline of the timber industry
- 1987 designation of the national scenic area
- 1987 wind surfing
- 1994- drones
- 2000 renewable energy – windfarms
- 2000 change in agriculture from orchards to vineyards
- 2000 micro-breweries

- National scenic area act
- Limit population growth and density constraints growth, forces lands and housing costs to increase
- State boundary in the middle of our gorge community
- Acts as a speed bump when we try to interpret some programs and other activities
- Different ax structure forces some economic activity from Washington to Oregon

Closure of aluminum plant outside of Goldendale in the early 2000s

- Columbia river gorge national scenic area act
- Washington's first and longest running foray into growth management
- Largely forgotten at state level as new growth management tools are made available

- 1902 Yacolt Burn
- 1908 Columbia national forest
Gifford Pinchot national forest
- 1980 Mount St. Helens
- 1994 NW Forest Plan

25 years also marks the major rural development (ranchettes – homes on smallish acreages) really took off, prices increased

25 years ago, the new recreation economy really took root and lots of changes, including the virtual death of timber economy

- 1980 eruption of Mt St. Helens
- 1986 scenic area designation
- Klickitat and white salmon wild and scenic rivers
- 1989 Dwyer injunction re spotted owl
- 1994 northwest forest plan
- Closure of wind river nursery reduced level of vegetation management
- 1996 flood events Insitu / Boeing – tech industry
- 2011 Condit dam removal
- Scenic area management plan wild and scenic river plans

The influx of euromerican settlers 1800s with their land use practices and ethics drastically altered the landscape

Recreation / tourism are being promoted as the economic savior for rural communities, but coastal impacts are wider estimated

- Native Americans 9,000 years continuous living here
- Euromerican colonizing settlers following Lewis and Clark Expedition Era
- Forceful relocation of native Americans to Rez
- Industrial timber forestry and extraction, managing, milling for commercial construction
- Impounding / damming of Columbia
- Military industrial complex
- Hanford atomic energy facility
- Aluminum plants
- Insitu / ICE / Sagetech
- Wind turbines

Tribal treaties

Dams (electricity)

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

When describing influences on quality of life, some participants described a shift in values for the environment, including a transition from logging to eco-tourism. Some went on to say this has changed the region from one of lifelong residents, to one of second homes and vacationers. Others spoke on the lack of pediatricians and hospitals in the area. Some described the dangers of wildfires and how forest mismanagement exacerbates those dangers.

When discussing what the community needs to thrive, some pointed to a need for improved infrastructure and maintenance, especially for the Bridge of the Gods and the Hood River Bridge. Some expressed a need for more basic social infrastructure, including healthcare, education, and childcare. Others spoke on the need to diversify the local economy so that it can be more resilient. Some expressed a desire for better public transportation, while others mentioned a desire to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

Additionally, participants presented the “Skamania County Stick.” The three-foot long, wooden stake was painted to represent the amount of taxable land in the county. Federal lands made up 80 percent of the land and would create \$18 million/year in revenue. Federal lands are not taxed, however. Ten percent of land represented private timber lands. Private industry pay about 4 percent of a county tax on the sale of timber. State DNR timber lands make up 8 percent of the county land and provide funds for the State Forest Board and Schools Trust. The county is left with 1.8% of taxable land to provide support for 13 service districts. Those presenting explained, “and that’s how Skamania County got the short end of the stick!”

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

When discussing what kind of future, the community desires for the two counties, some participants described a desire to retain a sense of close-knit community even as growth occurs. Many described a desire for improved basic social infrastructure: healthcare, education, and childcare.

Some participants engaged in a discussion of differing views on taxation. Some described the decrease in quality of government services due to budget cuts, specifically in the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Some showed strong aversion to more taxes, citing the lack of transparency in the current system. Some elaborated that they would be unwilling to pay more taxes without having understanding why a new tax increase would be beneficial. Other participants brought up how the anti-tax culture harms them year after year as the communities cannot fund essential needs.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Participants expressed how the growth management framework places environmental regulations to protect natural resources and manage growth.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

Participants of the workshop mentioned several aspects of the growth management framework that work well:

- Keeping people and development out of hazardous flood areas in the recent past.
- Forced communication and collaboration through public forums has been beneficial to discuss long-range planning.
- Coordination among government engaged with growth management planning
- Standard language for decision-making regarding land use policy across the state.
- The state department of Fish and Wildlife provides beneficial services to support environmental goals.
- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Workshop participants addressed the following topics when asked what parts are not working well:

- Lack of flexibility to meet diverse needs at the local level when they differ from other regions. Some mentioned the difficulty of environmental regulations on potential developers, who associate the high cost of impact studies as a city level decision meant to deter development.
- The framework is too large and complex for the average citizen to develop an adequate understanding to engage in any meaningful way.
- Several participants cited problems with the partially planning systems. Possible solutions offered by participants include hiring a facilitator or mediator to engage the communities and state agencies through a community planning process. Some participants mentioned every time there is a solution or legislative fix, it only applies to partial planning counties. Locally, planning under the Gorge Scenic Area, this is not applicable. Several want this looked at and acknowledged that some of these tools may be helpful to us to.
- Issues with the SMP and SEPA were also discussed by some participants who cited the complexity and redundancy of each process. Some mentioned that most of SEPA's regulations already exist in other parts of the framework. Some said SEPA today is mostly used as a path to litigation in urban areas for residents who oppose developments in their area.
- Under UGAs city government is incentivized to annex any profit-making business for tax revenue but leave any roads or residential areas.
- Rural areas need funding for infrastructure and public transportation, and that improvements are inclusive of the aging population in the region. This includes broadband services to every house.
- Ineffective collaboration between overlapping jurisdictions and/or agencies.
- Some participants stated that standing should be made more difficult in order to help decrease the gridlock of lawsuits created by the GMA.
- Some mentioned the only power local residents have is in the court, and while they agree it is not the place to work on issues, it is the only form of power they have to be heard.
- Participants expressed how critical it is for the state to maintain oversight of the quality and quantity of water, by protecting and maintain water systems. Currently they are breaking down.

When a small community only producing 200 gallons is required to find a leak, it is a hardship them, and they need state help.

- In Stevenson, it was discussed how dependent the region is on state and federal funds. Some participants voiced the need for unrestricted funding that will not require a competitive bidding process, which would give them the ability and autonomy to do what needs to be done. Currently, the community must continuously seek competitive funds. In comparison to Vancouver, who receives direct funding.
- Some participants expressed a desire for more readily available and understandable information regarding land development regulations, to cut down on the frequency of people buying land to develop for a specific purpose, and then finding out afterwards that they cannot develop as intended.
- *What additional data or research is needed to inform possible changes to the state growth planning framework?*

Additional topics were addressed near the end of the workshop, such as:

- Water availability in the future, and its impact on agriculture, wildfires, and the Hirst Fix
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Wildfire preparedness, and the increasing costs of high-end housing in the path of wildfires
- Income inequality, and affordable housing solutions
- Sprawl from urban centers in other counties, and how to deal with them

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

In a workshop with elected officials of the two counties, workshop participants discussed the purpose and value of the framework. Some agreed that while they were unfamiliar with the GMA, the 14 goals it outlines are all things local councils are working on and agree are important. Others described how these decisions are mandated at a state level, but the lack of funding for implementation creates a burden on cities and counties, especially in rural communities.

When asked what works well, some participants responded that all the goals of the GMA are in line with the communities' goals, but the scale and work required to achieve them are different. Some specified that the Shoreline Management Act was difficult to navigate but having someone from Ecology help was extremely useful. Others described the successful state government collaboration with WSDOT to create an underpass to resolve a safety zone issue with train tracks.

When asked what is not working well with the current growth planning framework, workshop participants discussed the following topics:

- The lack of affordable housing. The aviation industry brings in higher paying jobs, which incentivizes developers to create almost all high-end housing. Other members of the community (especially young people) are priced out of the market, which is causing a big impact on our communities and cities.
- Inefficient and ineffective housing inventory. As people are pushed out of Portland's housing market; they are moving to Stevenson to afford homes. Some suggested solutions increased density and multi-use features of the city. Second and vacation homes also influence the availability of houses, especially near the Hood River. Participants described an idea for a niche nonprofit to buy homes and land to place them in a trust, and then only sell for a certain price to

certain income brackets.

- Wildfires and low air quality are a growing problem. Some proposed limited timber industry increases to remove high wildfire risk trees.
- Lack of high quality infrastructure and internet.
- Reduction in tourism, due to the disbanding of the tourism board, hurts the economy. The change from a timber-based industry to tourism, placing more risk on the local economy,
- Insufficient state funds to maintain sewer infrastructure. It is not feasible for a community with a population of 1,500 people to fund a \$15 million replacement water sewer plant; there needs to be more state intervention.
- Small towns and rural communities don't have the people or the resources to achieve best management practices; need access to expertise.
- Commercial trucks use Washington's Highway 14 over Oregon's Highway 84 along the Columbia river in order to avoid the weigh stations and mileage tax in Oregon. Washington is collecting almost no revenue but incurring almost all the costs.
- Healthcare access is a problem, especially for mental health and emergency services. The lack of an emergency room, or even full access to telemedicine limits who in the community can live or stay here.
- There needs to be more transportation planning at a regional level to get Washington residents who work in Portland in and out of the city smoothly.

When participants were asked what the changing conditions are, respondents discussed the following topics:

- The amount and intensity of forest fires. This is especially concerning with growing population there needs to be more proactive protection (i.e. building materials, codes, housing pockets, etc.)
- To have the opportunity to innovate new solutions that go further than maintaining and improve the environment. Small communities can be creative and flexible, but don't have the resources.
- Increased rail traffic is a concern.
- The decline of the timber industry has left Skamania county without its industry or ability to make money. They now rely on a one million dollar grant from the federal government to get by.
- The phrase "Loving the Gorge to Death" was mentioned in reference to Portland and Vancouver residents visiting the Gorge and having a negative environmental impact on it.
- What can be done to preserve, encourage, and allow tourism, while also insuring we keep the identity of our small town where people can live and work.
- It is hard to know what industry should be a part of the next economic development plan. The tech industry would not serve the current skill set of current residents. One successful tech example is in Bingen, where Insitu (a company of Boeing) contributes to the local businesses.
- Schools and education in the region have declined in the last decade, as timber revenues dried up, and housing and affordability in the area has made it difficult to recruit and retain teachers.

During this workshop, elected official participants were asked what they believe the desired future is for local communities. Some described the public's love of the rural character of the region. Others mentioned how residents want to be able to afford their homes, feel safe, and raise a family. A variety of participants echoed a variety of the public's desire for better services and amenities such as: a vibrant downtown, increased broadband access, affordable housing, jobs, transportation, good roads, and better schools/education opportunities. Others spoke on the public's desire for options for youth to

have more career options in trade schools to help meet the demand for builders, plumbers, electricians, and small business owners. Some mentioned how longtime residents of the county would prefer all the development was discontinued.

When asked about public engagement, some described the discrepancies in public engagement based on the issue at hand: creating a state park has high engagement while creating an onsite treatment plant has low engagement. Some found it difficult to get people engaged early in the process, because it was hard to get the information out early in the process.

Near the end of the workshop, others discussed how difficult it can be to have an advocate in the legislature, or from state agencies, to bring funding and resources to rural areas. Having a rural advocate from the AWC would be very helpful. Some described how special projects that are more unique and creative could do well in this area, but there is not enough funding and too much bureaucracy to allow for it. Others expressed their interest in having universities and researches join them to find creative solutions to their problems.

LEWIS WORKSHOPS



MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOP

At the start of the workshop, participants were asked to reflect on key events that occurred in the past 10/25/50/100+ years that have shaped the past and continue to affect the present. Participants wrote down their responses on large sticky notes and posted them on the wall. Ruckelshaus Center facilitators invited participants to reflect on what others had written and in a full group discussion share their thoughts and ask questions.

The responses on each sticky note were transcribed and are presented on the following pages.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Displacement of tribal values and uses as a result of settlement – alien forms of property, fragmentation and governanceReserved treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather not understood or honoredLack of recognition of tribal responsibilities and authorities for management of shared resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of peopleDiversity of people <hr/> <p>Oregon Trail = Highway 99= Interstate 5 Freeway</p> <hr/> <p>Improved coordination among jurisdictions to work toward common goals and objects</p> <hr/> <p>Increase efficiency and effectiveness of limited funding and staff resources</p>	<p>Floods</p> <hr/> <p>Spotted Owl</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Loss of FisheriesCowlitz RiverChehalis RiverBuilding dams in Cowlitz river without fish passageGround water contamination with toxic chemicals <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">County shopHamilton dump
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bio regionAgricultureIndustry based	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creation of Mt. RainierCowlitz River	
Dams	St. Helens Explosion	Growth Management

What are the key historic events that have defined your community/county/region?

<p>Environmental integrity and ecological functions necessary to support traditional uses of land, water, and resources has been placed in continuing jeopardy</p> <p>Ability to provide a safe place to live and work is at risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">St. HelensMt. Rainier <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Centralia Railroad15 <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Forest and AgricultureSpotted Owl	<p>#1 agriculture Frier Chickens</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FloodsArrival of early settlersRailroadsDairy co-op startedSpotted owlStagnant ag prices
<p>Healthy environment capable of sustaining ecological functions of economic uses and quality of life</p>	<p>Floods</p> <hr/> <p>Oldest church building (Claguato) in same location in WA state</p> <hr/> <p>Chehalis flooding – worst in 2007</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FloodsFish issuesEffect of river log jams on personal property
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Railroad – boom times, then declinesFlooding (2007)Dam creation (towns gone, lakes created)		<p>Oldest county in State 1845</p>

- Most natural resource is no longer a local market – must deal with world markets
- Outside control by those who may not understand local needs/conditions
- Economy of scale increasing
- Fragmentation across the landscape decision domain too limited to address environmental functions
- Factors outside local community affect environment – e.g. climate change, hierarchy of local, state, federal governments and agencies (conflicting missions and authorities)

- Flood plains / channel migration (Cowlitz)
- Forestry

Onalaska was once home of largest mill in US

- Building of dams – destruction of salmon runs. Negative subsequent effect on communities who relied on fishing industry: tourism, fish as food, health of rivers. Current lack of accountability by entity Tacoma Power to address these issues.
- Flooding and Mt. St. Helen's eruption
- These things affect the economy and environmental quality for those who live here

Centralized: government, resources, services

- Transportation (automobile)
- Forestry

Centralia largest city in USA founded by an African American

Change in forestry

- Transport
- I-5
- Railroad

- Flooding
- Mt. St. Helens
- Housing

- Clean water, clean air, ability to control noise level around home.
- Ability to connect with natural world.
- Ability to make a living in county and not have to travel to Tacoma or Seattle.

- Entities to be able to see big picture

- Floods
- Tacoma's Dams
- Freeway
- GMA (bad)

- 1st Coonzy in WA
- Forest industry
- Impact of spotted owl
- Railroad and I-5 corridor
- Flooding
- Economic diversity planning

- French- Canadian Trader (1st white man) Simon Plamondon travels up Cowlitz river to present-day Toledo about 200 years ago
- Mt. St. Helens erupted 5/18/1980
- Fiber-optic cables installed to every home and business in Toledo area 2014

- Centralia massacre
- Timber and railroad industry (small communities)
- Mt. St. Helens
- Flood plains
- Cowlitz fall - hydroelectric power

- Floods
- Limited ability to increase development
- Restrictions on logging

Loss of economic viability of natural resource industry
Shift in population

- Floods
- Timber
- Small farm no longer viable

Floods

Housing Shortage

Closure of mine

Building of Mayfield, riffle dams

Construction of (current) highway 12

-
- *Glaciers – geological*
 - *Tribal activities – burning of forests*
 - *Cowlitz landing*
 - *Start of reduce logging or forest service and reduction in resource-based jobs*
 - *Fast growth of government regulation*
-

Government recognition/ designation of Lewis county in 1845

Remnants of (wheel ruts) Oregon Trail (Cowlitz trail) in Lewis and Clark Park

The building and phase out of the Centralia Steam Plant

- *Flooding*
 - *Transportation*
 - *Commerce*
 - *Homes*
 - *Communications*
-

Geologic Events:

- Earthquake*
 - Volcano*
 - Rivers*
 - Mountain terrain*
 - Soils*
 - Timber and Farm*
-

- *Flood 2007*
 - *Construction of I-5*
 - *Tacoma Power project*
-

-
- *Mt. St. Helens eruption*
 - *Decline of timber industry*
 - *Spotted owls*
 - *Closed Mills*
 - *Population decline*
 - *School closures*
-

VALUES, INFLUENCES, & NEEDS

- *What in your community/county/region influences the quality of life?*
- *What does your community/county/region need to thrive?*

Participants identified a variety of things that influence the quality of life and ability to thrive:

- Infrastructure for communications, transportation, agricultural processing, and wastewater management.
- Affordable housing for all family-types, including families, young adults, and retirees.
- Sustainable living wage jobs in the region. Related to living wage jobs and affordable housing, participants discussed how important it is to decrease poverty and homelessness in the county.
- Access to outdoor recreation.
- Better access to broadband internet service, which one participant described as a necessary step to a good public healthcare system. Additionally, one participant suggested Toledo as a small-town broadband success story.
- Some discussed more protections for national resources, including forest management practices, while others described how property rights conflict with these environmental regulations. Additionally, another participant suggested finding policies that allow balance for families and businesses to be viable, in order to maintain a rural lifestyle.
- Higher provision of public safety measures
- Educational opportunities that prepare residents for employment. Some expressed the desire for a vocational training program that helps educate and employ the people who live here, so they can work here too. One participant cited the Discovery Teen program at White Pass High School, that prepares students with forest product skills. Additionally, some discussed how labor regulations prevent kids younger than 18 from job experience before they hit the job market.
- Need to overcome the fact of fragmented decision-making domains and instead work together on a landscape scale. Federal, tribal, state, local rules and regulations are fragmented and do not always work well together.

DESIRED FUTURE

- *Based on your engagement in the community/county/region, describe the future that you believe people desire.*
- *What would need to happen to get to the future you want to see?*

Some participants expressed a need for connectivity between education and employment opportunities, including technical or trade school opportunities and four-year institutions for increased workforce development. Some participants viewed job creation as a measure to prevent Lewis County from becoming a “bedroom community.” Others expressed a desire for continued access to natural resources. Some mentioned a hope for increased prevalence safety measures regarding safe streets, crime prevention, and creating kid-friendly communities.

GROWTH PLANNING

- *How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community/county/region?*

Some participants described the purpose of the growth planning framework as a tool to prevent sprawl. Others saw it as a use of regulations to promote higher qualities of life. Some discussed its value as a tool to promote coordination and cooperation between jurisdictions. Others described the framework as a way of improving collaboration between urban and rural communities across the state to achieve common goals.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe work well and why?*

When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework work well, participants reported an increase in consideration and application of natural resource regulations; specific examples include Rural Development District zoning, which limits the impact of dense development in environmentally valued lands. Some mentioned increases in citizen participation regarding planning decisions. Others noted the framework's robust system for implementing historic preservation initiatives.

- *What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe do not work well and why?*

Dsample

- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*
 - Lack of flexibility in framework to properly fit local needs for example:
 - There are pre-existing industrial uses in rural parts of Lewis County, but GMA does not allow new industrial uses. There should be flexibility for a county to allow such uses.
 - The GMA restricts uses on agricultural lands that are not strictly agricultural. But there are many pre-existing uses that were grandfathered in.
 - Several participants discussed water rights issues, such as:
 - Receiving or transferring a water right is virtually impossible.
 - These problems should not be solved by the judicial system, the Hirst decision is an example of what not to do.
 - There should be two sets of water rights laws, one for the east side and one for the west side.
 - Relinquishment laws need to be revised to allow water rights to survive, even after 10 years.
 - Most of the water rights are moving from ag to cities, which needs to stop.
 - Approaching water in the future should be on a basin-wide basis. That is basically what the legislature's Hirst fix does.
 - There should be greater flexibility to cluster development of agricultural land. It is cheaper to drill one well for four houses than four wells, Lewis County tried to do this, but it was thrown out by the Growth Board.

- The compounding snowball effect of adding more permits, more reports, more process before a project can be built, increases the price of development and erodes affordability and viability.
- Annexation processes in urban growth areas are too cumbersome and problematic and it does not work to first put land into the UGA, then have to come back later to annex land. Additionally cities annexing only the tax rich property and leaving the county with the non-revenue producing lands is leaving counties fiscally unsustainable.
- *What if anything, is missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework?*

When asked what was missing or not addressed in the growth planning framework, participants mentioned the following:

- Want more study of growth management regarding behavioral and mental health services.
- Water usage as it relates to the agricultural economics and environmental protections.

ELECTED OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

Some elected officials identified the purpose of the framework as method for local governments to anticipate, plan, and provide adequate government services. More specifically some described it as a tool to improve land usage, curb sprawl in order to protect natural resources, provide future infrastructure planning and protect human health. Electeds discussed how the urban versus rural divide has seemingly created two Washington's, one urban and one rural. Also noted how the GMA emphasizes the need to stay current and in tune with local communities' visions.

When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework work well, elected talked about increasingly consistent coordination across local governments to achieve goals. Others touched on the creation of Urban Growth Areas to contain development, and the ability for counties to designate LAMIRDs. Some discussed the framework's promotion of participation among citizens through innovative use of technology and social media.

When discussing what aspects of the growth planning framework do not work well, elected officials talked about the following:

- Lack of flexibility for governments to adapt a one-size-fits-all approach to the local needs, especially with regards to agricultural needs.
 - For example, when a city extends water or sewer along a corridor to serve a part of the UGA, owners of farmland along the corridor ask to subdivide in smaller lot sizes (1 or 5 acre lots). It is not profitable to have a five-acre lot size. One solution discussed was to allow anything that adjoins the UGA, to be allowed to divide down to a one-acre lot size, which is more practical for a rural area.
 - Another example cited the problem with businesses in the rural area. It is difficult for a new business to take over where an older business has failed. There needs to be more flexibility so that replace a closing sawmill could be replaced with a new tech business.
 - The agriculture industry is also changing and requires flexibility to thrive. To keep up with market trends and growth, like shifting from canning to freezing, or bringing other products into Lewis county from Goldendale or Yakima.
 - LAMIRD rules need to be more flexible and enable some economic growth in these parts of

the rural area. Need to revisit the value of the statutory restrictiveness of LAMIRDs that were designated in the 1990s.

- SEPA, NEPA, and environmental impact statements have driven up the soft costs of development. This is part of why it is hard to create jobs in the rural area. Additionally, the excessive requirements for environmental studies makes it very slow and uncertain to get a permit, which is costly, especially for small communities. One solution suggested to streamline the regulations and limit the number of appeals. The streamline process could start by asking what value has been added by this regulation. For example, if environmental health and public works are adding value, those are places where the local government should focus their resources. On a similar note, another suggestion was for an EIS to include the social and economic impacts of an action. Additionally, in UGAs the standards are set by the city, but the processing is done by the county. This could be done by either, but not both.
- It is no longer feasible for family farms to operate the way they used to, partly because of the impact on the water system. Many former farms are not in use, and they need to be able to transition into some other use and pattern, for example, one-acre residential lots. Logging was also discussed as a no longer viable industry.
- There should be dedicated revenue for planning coming from the state, or the ability to make our own money, such as a surcharge on permits to support long-range planning.
- The outlying small towns that can't access the economic opportunity of I-5 are in an even more difficult situation – they are trying to survive.
- Prime farmland needs to be designated as distinct from less viable farmland for example that has clay. There needs to be more thought to how to protect truly viable farmland as well as how to avoid g a city with surrounding five-acre rural lots.
- Lack of infrastructure in cities is what is making it difficult to obtain infill development. If cities could expand their infrastructure, like water/sewer systems, it would enable that infill to happen. Related to infill problems, there needs to be a legal means to abate derelict properties.
- Implementation of the GMA is difficult when rural residents are not able to make the decisions on how their land is used. Additionally, implementation of the framework should occur at more than the local level.
- Educational opportunities for young people to be able to stay in rural communities, or at least be on even ground compared to urban students when they leave. Additionally, more resources are needed for farming and forestry education for youth.
- It would be helpful to have State agencies provide technical assistance and guidance.

When discussing their communities' desired future, electeds shared values, such as a safe place to live and raise a family, good schools, good paying jobs, and access to affordable healthcare. Also discussed was a future where the younger generation could afford housing and to own land or a farm that is economically viable.

Public engagement methods were discussed at the end of the workshop. Electeds talked about how successful engagement methods were to go out and meet people in the community – at schools, grocery stores, churches, and community centers as opposed to holding traditional town hall style meetings.

ROAD MAP LATINX LISTENING SESSION

Yakima, WA; 1/29/19

DEMOGRAPHICS

- ☐ explosion of Hispanic population → agriculture, construction.
- ☐ Yakima in the 90 's was different from Yakima now. Besides more Latinos/as there is a bigger population of white and Japanese workers.
- ☐ Migration from California has increased the Latino/a population in Yakima and Eastern WA

EDUCATION

- ☐ Better and equal public education for the Latino/a population
- ☐ Better and more education opportunities for children and parents
 - many parents do not read or write
 - increase ESL classes
- ☐ work in agriculture can end with better education opportunities
- ☐ health education for better quality of life
- ☐ universities can connect more with people and improve relationships
- ☐ There is a lack of opportunities to work in the USA in a profession transferred from another country, such as physicians. Many doctors are licensed and practicing in Mexico or other countries but come to the USA and are not able to practice, thus must subdue to entry-level jobs.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ☐ No basic infrastructure such as parks and appropriate street lighting (especially in the evenings)
- ☐ Lack of resources in towns with large minority and LatinX population (i.e. no community centers, lack of playgrounds and fields for family fun, no bike lanes, crumbled sidewalks, and inadequate lighting and signs)
- ☐ Many of the towns have differences for example "Buena" and "Moxee". Huge disparity and wealth gap in terms of allocation of resources between the communities. It is apparent the distinction in socioeconomic status between the groups of people based off the resources available.
- ☐ More prevention programs for the youth to avoid gangs. Many youth end up death or in jail.
- ☐ There should be more:
 - more affordable housing
 - more public transportation between Yakima, Sunnyside and Prosser; there is none of that. The lack of transportation separates communities
 - more community centers and parks; too many bars and breweries
 - use the marijuana tax revenue to establish more parks
 - more integration of families "who is raising and children"
 - better salaries; living wage
 - Better garbage pickup, compost and recycling (these are basic needs for any given community to help the environment and each other)
- ☐ Transportation improvements such as incentives not to use cars or to use another mode of transport

- ☐ Increase bike lanes
- ☐ Companies should give incentive to employees or students to use bicycles
- ☐ Increase street lighting

LANGUAGE

- ☐ Language is a barrier for both Latinos/as and whites and therefore, there should be language education for both groups. White people should learn to speak Spanish so they can integrate with the Latino/a community and build relationships. Just as Latinos/as should learn English for the same purpose.
- ☐ Bilingual education should work both ways and for everyone.
 - This is currently only available to more affluent schools (only 2 exist) or cities like Seattle (but they have the same problems)
- ☐ People give little value to Spanish but Spanish has its place and importance not only because of the population but also because of history
- ☐ There are currently insufficient ESL classes for the Spanish-speaking community to learn English
- ☐ There should be incentives for those who speak more than one language (i.e. tax-breaks maybe) and for those who want to learn another language
- ☐ There should be more emphasis on language, culture and diversity
- ☐ Latinos/as do not have opportunities to learn English.
- ☐ There are little to no programs and opportunities to learn Spanish for interested English speakers

CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

- ☐ Our people ask for work and infrastructure that our culture can endure and live with to become better members of society.
- ☐ Many of our people do not reach out to the any form of government for fear.
- ☐ Previously, there was no voice for our people in Yakima but now there are women on the City Council. Previously, seats were only occupied by white men in the county. Thus, the only representation available was white men for white men or white people. There was no voice for minorities, especially the second largest minority in the Yakima area: Latinos/as.
- ☐ The creation of new district lines would further help everyone equally
- ☐ We also want the white community to feel comfortable enough to build relationships with other minorities and thus mix more with the Latino/a community. There is currently insufficient integration between Latinos/as and whites; there is too much separation.
- ☐ Working hours are another huge obstacle for the quality of life. Farmers in America have a bad reputation for mistreatment of migrants. They overwork, abuse and pay unfair wages to workers. Many farmers take advantage of the citizenship status migrants have in the USA and play on the fear by threatening deportation and thus continue to habitually abuse Latinos/as.
- ☐ Assimilating to American culture can be a problem.
- ☐ Addressing gang issues through prevention measures
 - Access to basic resources such as second community/family centers
 - Prevention and treatment centers for drugs and alcohol
 - Better policies so people don't go straight to jail for minor offenses

- Improved programs by collaborating with the communities, non-profits and even private sectors
 - redistributing the taxes of alcohol, marijuana etc. to pay for education of responsible drug use drug prevention
- ❑ Huge disparity between the east and west of WA state; wealth and tax revenues concentrated in the west side. Little resources and programs for central and eastern WA
- ❑ There are very poor counties in Eastern WA where the majority are Latinos/as and native Americans
- ❑ There should be a better distribution of wealth and resources from a macroeconomic perspective
- ❑ Eastern WA should receive more opportunities to go after resources and grants

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Division of Governmental Studies and Services

Final Report

4/16/2019

William D. Ruckelshaus Center

Road Map to Washington's Future Project Online Questionnaire Report

Season Hoard, Project Manager

Christina Sanders, Director

Brian Anderson, Research Coordinator

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Introduction

Washington State University's Division of Governmental Studies and Services (DGSS) is a research and outreach unit sponsored by WSU Extension which draws upon faculty, staff and student capacity from across the University. DGSS has translated the resources of the University for public benefit for over 50 years through applied research, technical assistance and training. Throughout the Pacific Northwest, DGSS has worked in partnership with communities, with state, local, federal and tribal government agencies, and with select non-governmental entities. As such, DGSS has developed a reputation for robust applied research, and has developed expertise in multiple areas, including questionnaire administration and analysis, facilitation, focus groups and interviews.

The William D. Ruckelshaus Center was commissioned by the Washington State Legislature to gather public input on the effectiveness of Washington's growth planning framework, which includes many state laws, institutions and policies. Among the many laws within the project scope are the Growth Management Act (GMA), the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The Center was conducting workshops in 26 locations¹ across Washington from January 2018-January 2019, and wanted to provide a means of participation for those who could not attend in-person workshops, and an opportunity for individuals participating in the workshops to comment anonymously on these important topics. The Center contracted with DGSS to translate workshop questions into an online questionnaire via the Qualtrics questionnaire platform to provide an analysis of the results. The questionnaire included a total of 19 closed and open-ended questions, and was available for participation from May of 2018 to February of 2019.² Responses to the 1,436 completed questionnaires are analyzed and presented below.

Methods

To capture input from those unable to attend the workshops, or those wanting to give anonymous feedback, DGSS researchers in cooperation with The William D. Ruckelshaus

¹ In each location, the Center convened two workshops—one for elected officials (Federal, tribe, state, county, city, local) and one multi-sector (a diverse array of individuals from public and private sectors with knowledge of the land-use planning framework and/or an interest in community well-being). More information on this approach will be available in the Center's forthcoming report.

² Questionnaire data was retrieved February 8th from Qualtrics.

Center, translated the workshop questions into an online questionnaire, and incorporated additional demographic questions. The Center sent a link to the questionnaire to everyone invited to a workshop shortly after the county-based workshop and then sent three follow-up reminders as the questionnaire close date approached. The questionnaire directly reached over 10,000 individuals via this approach. In the transmittal emails, the Center invited individuals to forward the questionnaire to others who may be interested. For the demographic questions, descriptive analysis was performed. Thematic analysis was conducted for each open-ended question using the Atlas.ti qualitative analysis software. The William D. Ruckelshaus Center project team developed codes—meaning concepts or themes present in the data—based on the workshop group data and provided these codes to DGSS researchers to help ensure consistent coding and thematic analysis across the two methods. Ruckelshaus provided a list of key terms and phrases that could be used to identify the appropriate concept in responses to the questionnaire, and DGSS researchers used these key terms to code all open-ended responses. The frequency of codes within each question was then calculated and used to identify dominant themes (those represented most) in responses. In addition to the codes developed in the workshop groups, DGSS researchers examined for the presence of lower-order themes within the dominant themes provided by the Ruckelshaus Center. This provided a more nuanced analysis of specific concerns within each overarching theme, such as *transportation*, which included concerns over funding, congestion and more options. The thematic analysis is organized by question, with examples from the data to illustrate the topics associated with each theme.

Analysis of dominant themes by age to determine whether dominant themes are different by key age groups is also provided.

Results

Demographics

A total of 1,436 completed questionnaires were received via the online questionnaire, though the number of responses to individual open-ended questions is much lower, ranging from 400-800. Demographic questions asked respondents which county they live in, whether they are an elected official, age, and whether they had attended a workshop. The highest number of respondents live in King (15.5%, 223), and Pierce counties (8.2%, 118). Over half of respondents

are 51-70 years old (51.3%, 729). Roughly 16% are elected officials (16.6%, 235), and 23.8% (344) attended a Road Map workshop.

Figure 1: Breakdown of Age Groups of Respondents

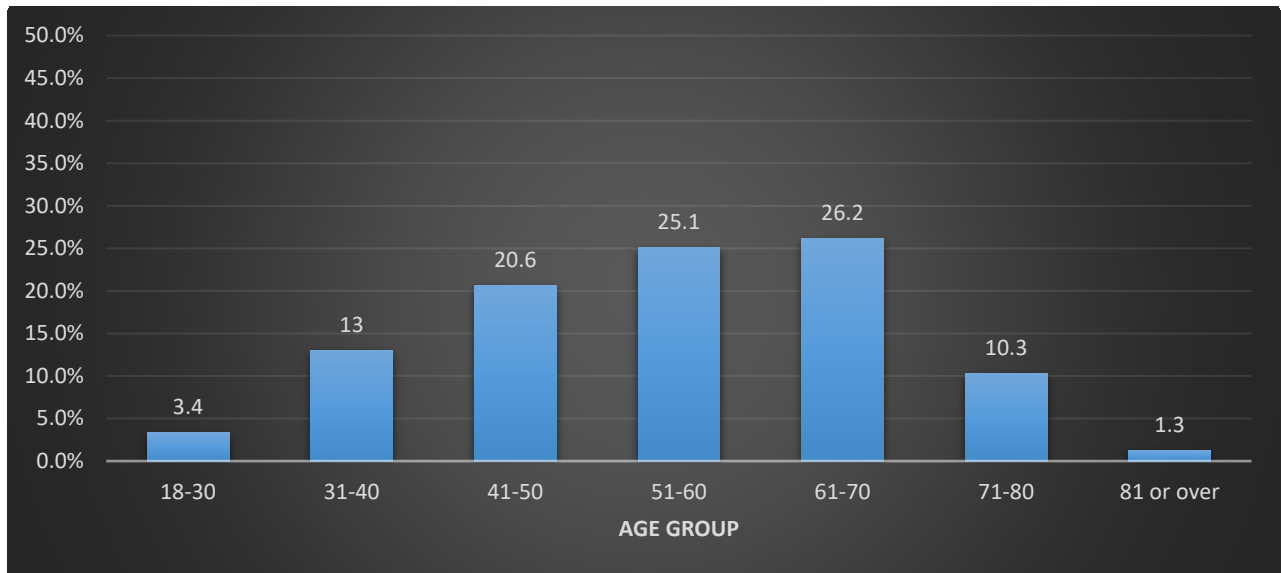
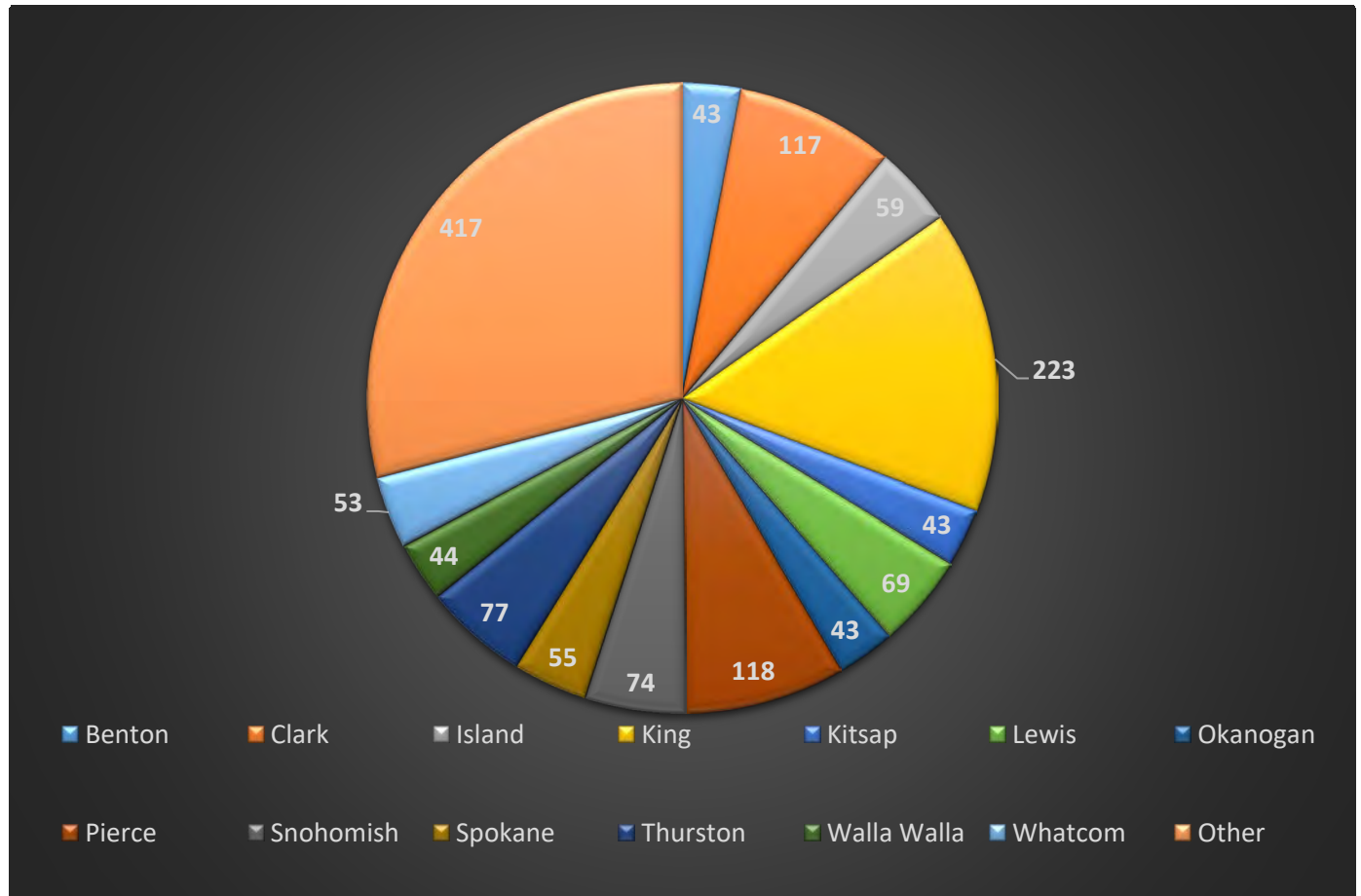


Figure 2: Number of Respondents by County



Thematic Analysis

What are the key events in the past 10, 25, 50 or 100+ years that have defined your community, county, and/or region?

Though this question asks specifically for events, many respondents elaborated on the impacts of the events they mentioned. The dominant themes present across responses include environment and transportation, with several sub-themes present.

Environment

When discussing defining events in a community, county, or region the most common element in respondent comments was the theme of *environment*. Among comments on the

environment, **natural resource extraction**, and **water** are the most frequently discussed sub-themes. Discussion of natural resource extraction most often referenced logging and mining. Respondents from many different counties identify the logging and mining industry to be historically, and sometimes currently, important to their area. In addition, respondents identify transitions away from a resource extraction-based economy as a key event in their community, which in some regions had significant impacts on the community. One participant noted that environmental regulations placed on the timber industry were devastating to their local economy, and their community has not been able to fully recover from the economic loss. Similar to this comment, many respondents identify environmental regulations, including endangered species, as the cause of the decline in resource extraction. Clearly, environmental regulatory action, and its ability to shape a community, are of central importance in the minds of many respondents. Related to natural resources extraction, changes in fisheries, such as declines in salmon harvests, were also mentioned as significant events in communities.

In regards to the sub-theme of water, legal issues including water rights, adjudications, and stormwater requirements are all frequently cited in responses, mostly as examples of constraints or regulatory overreach. For example, one respondent described the development of water rules and tighter shoreline management regulations as a major inhibitor to Washington's growth, and on communities themselves. Similarly, another respondent noted that water regulations such as the in-stream flow rule, and the Hirst decision cause numerous problems for local river watersheds. Other responses indicate that rural areas may be particularly impacted by events affecting water rights. For instance, selling water rights downstream was noted as having a negative impact on future growth, and disputes over water rights was also linked to disproportionate harm of rural communities. Changes in water quality and quantity were discussed consistently, but less frequently than water rights. Other prevalent elements or the theme of *environment* present in responses included comments about natural disasters such as flooding, and earthquakes, as well as climate change.

Transportation

The second most prevalent theme was *transportation*. Transportation includes the sub-themes of **infrastructure**, and **traffic**. The most frequently mentioned sub-theme mentioned under transportation was the construction of transportation infrastructure such as highways,

railroads, and transit systems. While these projects are identified as key events, many respondents suggest that there is a lack of adequate transportation. One Pierce County respondent noted that Seattle's transportation infrastructure is not keeping up with the need created by its growth in population. Another King County resident specifically pointed out that Seattle construction, and lack of updated infrastructure has become a defining regional event. Perhaps as a symptom of this apparent lack of sufficient infrastructure, the analysis shows that traffic is a frequently cited community-defining characteristic. One respondent from Clark County noted that traffic has become so unbearable for residents that it is causing individuals to move to surrounding rural areas.

How do the events you stated above affect the present?

This question focuses on respondents' views on how the events listed in the previous question affect the present. Similar to the previous question, the most common themes among responses highlighted effects on *environment* and *transportation*. For this question, the two most prominent sub-themes under environment are **water** and **fisheries**. When discussing water, comments often reference the declines in water supply, water quality and the impacts of limited water on communities. A participant suggested that water scarcity and restrictions have negatively impacted growth within their county. Another participant suggested that further conflict over water is inevitable with the potential of causing regional disputes, and economic downturn.

With regard to fisheries, comments frequently referenced or alluded to decline. One respondent painted a grim picture of the state of salmon populations, noting that Chinook salmon in the Puget Sound are disappearing at an alarming rate, despite continual conservation efforts. .

For the dominant theme of *transportation*, the sub-themes of **traffic** and **transportation options** were identified. Most respondents mentioned the impact of traffic on their communities. As one respondent from Pierce County noted, many Washingtonians spend hours a day commuting to and from work on overcrowded, poorly managed highways. Similar comments were made by respondents from King, Clark, Snohomish, and Kitsap County. Another respondent from Island County noted that the increased military population in the region has not only increased highway traffic to an unbearable amount, but has increased ferry traffic commuting on and off the islands as well.

Concerns over traffic were also linked to concerns regarding options. The lack of transportation options was mentioned frequently among questionnaire respondents. One respondent blamed this issue on voter ignorance, and the limited funding put towards expanding secondary transportation methods. It is important to note that traffic does not appear to be as frequently mentioned among respondents from rural counties.

What in your community, county, and/or region influences the quality of life?

The most common themes identified in response to this question include *schools*, *housing*, and *environment*. Many respondents identify schools as having an influence on quality of life. Respondents used descriptive terms for schools such as “quality,” “good,” “stable,” “small,” and “well-funded” as having a positive impact on communities. Some also suggested that inadequately funded schools have negative impacts on quality of life, such as high poverty levels, lower quality of education, and higher associated crime rates.

For the topic of housing, **living affordability** and **housing affordability** were frequently discussed. Many respondents lament the lack of affordable housing, while others applaud their community for supporting it. For example, a respondent from Skagit County commented on the progress in developing migrant housing, and the regional coordination of an affordable housing plan. Another respondent from Snohomish County noted that the lack of affordable housing in the region has driven away families and led to a decrease in community dynamic. Similar comments were made by respondents from Skagit, Clark, and King County, who mentioned the increase in housing costs as a reason for change in community structure and dynamics.

The *environment* was also a major theme in quality of life responses. **Water** was again the main topic of discussion within this theme. Respondents identified access to clean water resources for both consumption and recreation as having an influence on quality of life, as well as access to open spaces. As one respondent noted, their quality of life has been greatly increased by regional access to both outdoor recreation, and urban experiences. This respondent also added that mountain recreation, rivers, the Puget Sound, and the Pacific Coast have attributed to their spirited community outlook and quality of life here in Washington. As evidenced by this response, water is just one of the environmental factors that impact quality of life, and it is frequently mentioned in conjunction with access to and enjoyment of open spaces, nature, and outdoor recreation. While many factors may influence quality of life, those of particular interest

to respondents to this questionnaire focus on the impact of schools, affordability, access to water resources for consumption and recreation, and access to open spaces such as parks and the outdoors.

What does your community need to thrive?

Transportation emerged as the most common theme in response to this question. Responses varied in describing the transportation changes that are needed to help communities thrive.

Below is a list of the terms used by respondents to depict what they think is needed in a transportation system:

- Efficiency
- Options
- Upgrade
- Improvements
- Expansion
- Holistic
- Integrated
- Good
- Regional
- Local
- Multimodal
- Convenient
- Viable
- Rapid
- Balanced
- High-quality
- World-class
- Complete
- Affordable
- Reliable
- Access
- Additional
- Incremental

While each word individually does not provide much depth, as a whole, they provide a picture of respondents' thoughts on transportation that is more nuanced and detailed. It should also be noted that many respondents mention transportation issues and context that are specific to their communities or regions, which provides a complicating factor in obtaining a comprehensive understanding of transportation needs as perceived by respondents to this questionnaire.

The theme of *housing* is mentioned nearly as often as transportation in responses to this question. **Affordability** is again a dominant sub-theme. Participant statements on this topic are straightforward and can be summarized as: communities need affordable housing in order to thrive. One concern voiced by respondents from multiple counties was that children cannot return to the communities they were raised in due to rising housing costs. Several responses went into greater detail about housing needs, stipulating that affordable housing should be close to public transit options, available for all age groups, and accessible in all neighborhoods.

Based on your engagement in the community, county, and/or region, describe the future that you believe people desire. What values have been expressed that are important to shape the future?

Safety is the most frequently mentioned aspect of a desired future. Respondents repeatedly mention the need for safety in all aspects of community; safe roadways, streets, neighborhoods, individuals, and schools. Some responses point out specific elements impacting safety including the drug usage crisis, and the protection provided by police and firefighters. While many respondents use safety to describe a desired future, it is clear that it is also a value that respondents think should shape the future. As stated by one respondent, safety is the single most important value held by community members in the area. The second most mentioned aspect of a desired future is *affordability*. Specifically, affordable housing and healthcare are mentioned as elements of a desired future.

When respondents were asked about a desirable future, *environment* again surfaced as a dominant theme. The most frequent sub-themes with environment include **natural resources preservation** and **open spaces**. When describing the future people want in regards to the natural world, one respondent suggested that the development and maintenance of clean air and water, along with flourishing wildlife are factors that will create a successful future for the region. Another respondent stated it just as clearly, describing the ideal future as one with a restored natural environment, providing a healthy habitat for living, and recreation. In addition, respondents consistently state that continued access to open spaces is an important component of a desirable future. Regardless of whether the reason for preservation is consumption, recreation, or aesthetic value, the responses above clearly demonstrate an underlying value of environmental protection. As expressed simply by a respondent from Yakima, people value a healthy living environment.

What concerns people the most about the future?

When asked of concerns for the future, the most frequent themes discussed include *affordability*, *health*, and *environment*. Affordability is a consistent cause of concern to respondents. As in previous questions, affordability is most often mentioned in relation to **housing**, but other aspects mentioned include, cost of living, education and even food. At least one comment suggested that in some areas, affordability may not be a result of increasing prices,

but, a result of poor job diversity. It is clear that affordability is an issue in many areas of Washington, with respondents from 19 different counties citing affordability as a concern. In regard to health, many responses raise concerns about health costs, access to health care, mental health issues, and the opioid crisis.

Concerns about the environment most frequently mention **climate change** and its impacts. The impacts of climate change pointed out by respondents were varied, from listing harm to an agricultural economy, wildfires, and water availability, to the concern that it leads at least one to view the future as unpredictable and unsafe.

What do you see as the major issues that would need to be addressed to achieve your desired future?

The themes of *environment* and *community well-being* are present most frequently in responses to this question. Environmental sub-themes that respondents feel need to be addressed include **water** and **climate change**. Water conservation came up often in response to this question. One respondent suggested that the amount of water wasted has become embarrassing. Another questionnaire respondent suggested that in order to address this issue, we need to treat water as the limited resource that it is. Other aspects of water conservation discussed in responses include the need for more management over water supplies, coordinated planning of future water usage, and improving water management in various ways. Water quality is also frequently cited as an issue that needs to be addressed. Overall, it seems clear that respondents feel that water resource protection is a major issue in planning for the future.

When it comes to climate change and other environmental issues, a respondent highlighted what they think is needed in order to resolve them, noting that communities must first recognize the reality of dwindling resources such as fossil fuels, climate change, and natural resource destruction before change is possible. Similarly, another respondent described climate change as a massive and imminent problem for the world. Connected to climate change, several comments suggested carbon emissions, transitioning to renewable energy sources, and incorporating climate change impacts into planning efforts as issues that need to be addressed.

As in the analysis of the previous questions, *affordability* is an important theme in responses. The highest number of respondents feel that affordable housing is a major issue, followed by affordable health care. *Education* was also frequently referenced by respondents, including access and funding. For example, one respondent suggested education for all as an important issue. Others indicated that increasing or maintaining funding is vital. Another aspect of education that emerged from the data is the idea of innovation in education. For example, several respondents suggest the need for training, technical education, and other obtainable and useful alternatives to traditional education programs.

What would you suggest to address the issues you described above?

Respondents put forward a wide range of ideas and strategies to address the issues facing their communities. Though specifics varied extremely depending on the community and context, analysis revealed some common themes in responses. Again, *affordability* receives much attention in responses. Respondents most frequently suggested the need for construction of smaller housing units, such as condos, tiny homes, and townhomes as options for addressing this issue. Respondents also included different ways to promote and fund development of affordable housing, including incentives for developers, public/private partnerships, and relaxing regulations. Not surprisingly, questionnaire participants included the importance of locating Responses also indicate that location of these housing units in close proximity to public transit, jobs, and city centers. Alternatively, another respondent suggested that high construction costs have made new buildings virtually unattainable, and that redirecting funding towards rehabilitating existing structures could cut costs significantly. There were several respondents who called for the modification of the Growth Management Act, implying that in its current form, they believe it is contributing to housing affordability issues.

The second most prominent theme present in this set of responses is *education*. Access to an excellent education was itself frequently cited as an issue in the previous question, and many respondents suggested that increased or more complete funding of public schools is a way to address access to—and improving the quality of, education. In addition, respondents suggest that adaptations to the education system are needed; one respondent suggested that the state’s K-12 education system needs to incorporate skill training, and should solicit involvement from unions.

Education is suggested as a way to address a variety of issues. As one example, a respondent suggests educating the community as a way to address transportation issues arising from growth. Education is also one of the suggested solutions to environmental issues. One respondent noted that schools can educate people on the need to reduce energy and resource waste to address the issue of climate change.

How would you describe the purpose and value of the state growth planning framework for your community, county, or region?

Some participants interpreted this question as asking what values underlie the current growth planning framework, while others thought that it was asking how valuable the framework is to their communities. Response analysis for this question included both interpretations. Respondents' overall understanding of the purpose and value of the growth planning framework can be summed up by one respondent, who described the purpose of the framework as increasing the density of cities and urban growth areas, while the values behind it are to create healthy communities, ensure efficient infrastructure investments, and protect natural resources. Responses suggest that many participants see the growth planning framework as a qualified success. One respondent observed that the framework has been crucial in developing a district plan for future services and needs. However, the same respondent noted that the boundaries established for urban growth areas are illogical, and do not contribute to the greatest possible success.

Several other respondents that assert that the framework is not of value to their communities. For instance, several respondents argue that the framework is designed for urban areas and counties, and is not appropriate for rural areas. As one respondent from San Juan county stated, the growth management act has been an unsuccessful attempt to impose urban planning on rural communities. Another respondent sees state planning as unnecessary in their rural community, noting that the framework is costly, and a burden to many regions that have not experienced actual growth.

Annexation of land, particularly the cost and lack of incentive for cities to annex land within the designated growth areas, is also frequently discussed by respondents. Lastly, some respondents agree with the vision for the framework, but feel that it does not go far enough in its requirements and enforcement. According to some participants, the growth planning framework

is a step in the correct direction, but does not go far enough to truly evoke impact within communities.

What parts of the growth planning framework do you believe work well in your community, county, and/or region to achieve the desired future and why?

The overall sentiment among respondents is that *Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)* have been successful at decreasing urban sprawl, leading to protection of rural land and resources from development, decreasing the cost of providing services, and providing a framework for local planning efforts. Respondents also frequently mention the *protection of critical areas*, which assist communities in protecting the environment, and minimize the harm of construction in sensitive areas. Environmental concerns such as these are also discussed. In particular, several respondents feel that the growth planning framework has protected water resources from over-development.

Transportation is another area in which many respondents feel the growth management framework has made a positive impact. Planning of transportation projects has been particularly benefited. For example, one King County respondent noted that there has been regional success in developing transportation projects around future housing development plans. Some respondents also feel that it has also helped transparency, as the six-year transportation plan requirement provides the public with an opportunity to review and participate in the development process.

What parts of the current growth planning framework do you believe don't work well and why?

Of course, there are aspects of the growth planning framework that respondents feel do not work well. A minority of respondents feel that the growth planning framework has not worked at all, as evidenced by several respondents who commented that urban sprawl has continued unabated in their communities. Other responses identify specific aspects of the framework that do not work well. Interestingly, *transportation* is the most frequent theme in responses to this question, which indicates disagreement among respondents on the impact of the Growth Management Act on transportation. Specifically, a topic of particular note is the complaint that the framework excludes adequate transportation funding needed to keep up with population growth. Several responses provide more detail about this issue. First, respondents

suggest that the framework must require more transportation infrastructure to serve the influx of new community residents. In other words, development can exceed the availability of the transportation network currently in place, and has done so. In addition, respondents highlight a lack of sufficient transportation impact fees for developers. Responses suggest that these two conditions together leaves communities with severe transportation issues, and with no way of funding infrastructure to alleviate the problem.

Urban Growth Areas are also a frequent theme discussed in responses to this question. The central complaint is that there needs to be more flexibility and adaptability for UGA boundaries, in order for communities to accommodate the framework successfully. To support their view, respondents consistently cite specific instances where UGA boundaries in their community were not well drawn. This concern reflects a consistent view among respondents; the opinion that the growth management framework, as one respondent mentioned, fails to take into account the unique problems and circumstances that each county faces. In other words, there is a sentiment among many respondents that the current framework is too much of a one-size fits all policy.

What are the gaps, conflicts, or disconnects that exist within the growth planning framework?

The issues identified most frequently in response to this question are connected to the themes of *regulations* and *coordination*. Those responses connected to regulations touched on the complicated regulatory framework regarding growth and the environment. For example, one respondent noted that the procedures required for the GMA plans, along with overlapping requirements put forth by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), and stormwater requirements has made GMA planning too time consuming and costly for communities to implement. Another legal framework mentioned in comments was the Municipal Water Law, while one respondent mentioned “the Coordination Act”.³

Another conflict identified in responses is the existence of exceptions, appeals, and inconsistencies in the application of the framework. In other words, respondents see a lack of

³ It is not clear which specific legal framework the respondent is referring to when referencing “the Coordination Act.”

fairness in how the framework is operating. For example, one respondent suggested that large entities have been given an unfair advantage with the ability to purchase mitigation, and avoid following the framework, while the average citizens does not have that option.

Coordination is a unifying idea across responses to this question. Respondents consistently describe the lack of coordination between local and regional goals, planning and implementation, and among agencies. As one respondent observed, agencies tend to work exclusively within their department instead of collaboratively with others.

What current or potential future challenges or conditions are not addressed within the growth management framework?

Respondents most frequently identify challenges not addressed within the growth management framework that are connected to the *environment*. **Water** and **climate change** are the sub-themes mentioned most frequently. Water availability particularly is seen as a future challenge. Respondents consistently express concerns that the current framework does not take into account the over allocation of water resources, carrying capacity, and the finite nature of the water supply. Another aspect of water that respondents feel is not addressed is water quality, including stormwater management and impacts from continued growth. Understandably, climate change is frequently mentioned separately and in conjunction with water resource issues.

Two aspects of *transportation* also emerged from the responses. First, multiple respondents expressed the belief that rural transportation issues and options were not incorporated into the framework. Second, transportation funding was represented in several respondents stating that local jurisdictions often foot the bill for transportation projects, while the state does not help.

What additional data or research is needed to inform possible changes to the state growth planning framework?

Specific data needs expressed by respondents are connected to the theme of *environment*, particularly the sub-theme of **water**. Responses include calls for ground water questionnaires, inventories of available water, and exploring the potential for gray water usage. This result makes sense considering the prevalence of concerns about water quantity and quality evident throughout the data collected by this questionnaire.

Several respondents also expressed the need for accurate, in-depth data that reflects what is really going on, especially at smaller scales. As one respondent expressed, there is a need for a comprehensive understanding of the whole process, and an analysis of what communities really need must be conducted in order to maintain a high quality of life as populations rise in Washington.

Age Comparison

There are clear differences between the topics most frequently touched on in responses based on the age of the respondent. For this analysis we compare just two groups: those 18-30, and those 31 or older. Only 48 of the over 1400 respondents to this questionnaire indicated they were part of the younger age group, and of those, only 16 provided data beyond demographics. Due to the low number of respondents in the lower age bracket, comparisons in this section are for responses across all questions. This analysis is particularly important because of the lack of younger participants at the in-person workshops, and the need to capture the unique perspective of younger Washington residents.

While the themes mentioned frequently by younger respondents are in line with those found from all participants (i.e. environment, transportation, and affordability), the responses suggest differences in the relative importance of those themes. For example, young respondents mention *affordability* more than any other single theme; while, for all respondents, *water* is the predominant theme. This suggests that affordability is of vital importance to younger respondents when discussing the growth framework. Another seeming difference between the groups is the prevalence of comments on *climate change* as compared to other environmental topics among younger respondents. Among all respondents, water was mentioned twice as often as climate change. In contrast, climate change was mentioned twice as often as water among respondents 18-30 years old. Again, this suggests that climate change may be more important to younger respondents than to older ones.

Conclusion

Analysis of the questionnaire responses indicates that there are several issues of interest to respondents when discussing the growth management framework in Washington. The central themes emerging from the data are affordability, environment (specifically water and climate change), and transportation.

Based on this analysis, affordability is seen by respondents as a key concern for the well-being of many communities in Washington. Access to affordable housing for all is a particular focus among respondents, but affordable health care is also a key concern for residents of both rural and urban communities. Another concern connected to affordability is the lack of jobs that pay enough to be able to afford life's necessities. It seems clear that the growth management framework going forward should attempt to address issues that impact affordability, particularly in housing and healthcare.

Environmental issues are perhaps the most frequently mentioned topic in responses to this questionnaire. Prevalent among environmental issues is water, climate change and open spaces. The importance of water in respondent's discussion of these issues cannot be overstated. Water quality and quantity is consistently mentioned in responses to almost every question, highlighting acknowledgement by questionnaire participants of the necessity of water in their lives, including agriculture, drinking water, and fisheries. In addition, the aesthetics of and access to natural features such as rivers, lakes, and the ocean are valued by respondents. Climate change, and its effects on natural resources and the built environment, is also on the minds of many respondents. While some of the suggestions and comments about water and other environmental issues may not be directly connected to the growth management framework, this analysis suggests that environmental concerns may need to be further addressed.

Transportation is another central theme found in the data. Of particular note is the mention of traffic congestion, and lack of transportation options. The overall sentiment seems to be that current transportation systems are not sufficient to support continued growth and high quality of life in many areas. In discussing solutions to this issue, changes in how transportation infrastructure is funded were often suggested as a necessary step towards progress in this area.

Lastly, it is apparent from the data that there are many concerns with the current growth management framework. Many of the repeated concerns present the current framework as unfair in some way. For instance, there are multiple comments that express the sentiment that current laws on growth are designed for urban communities and are unfairly burdensome—or wrongly applied—in rural communities. Other respondents consider the current growth frameworks as heavy handed, and having been constructed without sufficient participation from smaller stakeholders, or that not enough support is given to organizations to meet what is being required.

This finding is particularly relevant to discussions of the growth management framework, as perceptions of fairness have been shown to be a factor in acceptance of—and adherence to—policy decisions in other areas, such as natural resources and criminal justice. This suggests that it would be beneficial for policy makers to explicitly consider perceptions of fairness in both the process for updating the framework, and in the framework itself as much as possible. The workshops carried out by the Ruckelshaus Center staff, and the questionnaire described in this report are steps in that direction.

ROAD MAP LATINX LISTENING SESSION

Yakima, WA; 1/29/19

DEMOGRAPHICS

- ☐ explosion of Hispanic population → agriculture, construction.
- ☐ Yakima in the 90 's was different from Yakima now. Besides more Latinos/as there is a bigger population of white and Japanese workers.
- ☐ Migration from California has increased the Latino/a population in Yakima and Eastern WA

EDUCATION

- ☐ Better and equal public education for the Latino/a population
- ☐ Better and more education opportunities for children and parents
 - many parents do not read or write
 - increase ESL classes
- ☐ work in agriculture can end with better education opportunities
- ☐ health education for better quality of life
- ☐ universities can connect more with people and improve relationships
- ☐ There is a lack of opportunities to work in the USA in a profession transferred from another country, such as physicians. Many doctors are licensed and practicing in Mexico or other countries but come to the USA and are not able to practice, thus must subdue to entry-level jobs.

QUALITY OF LIFE

- ☐ No basic infrastructure such as parks and appropriate street lighting (especially in the evenings)
- ☐ Lack of resources in towns with large minority and LatinX population (i.e. no community centers, lack of playgrounds and fields for family fun, no bike lanes, crumbled sidewalks, and inadequate lighting and signs)
- ☐ Many of the towns have differences for example "Buena" and "Moxee". Huge disparity and wealth gap in terms of allocation of resources between the communities. It is apparent the distinction in socioeconomic status between the groups of people based off the resources available.
- ☐ More prevention programs for the youth to avoid gangs. Many youth end up death or in jail.
- ☐ There should be more:
 - more affordable housing
 - more public transportation between Yakima, Sunnyside and Prosser; there is none of that. The lack of transportation separates communities
 - more community centers and parks; too many bars and breweries
 - use the marijuana tax revenue to establish more parks
 - more integration of families "who is raising and children"
 - better salaries; living wage
 - Better garbage pickup, compost and recycling (these are basic needs for any given community to help the environment and each other)
- ☐ Transportation improvements such as incentives not to use cars or to use another mode of transport

- ☐ Increase bike lanes
- ☐ Companies should give incentive to employees or students to use bicycles
- ☐ Increase street lighting

LANGUAGE

- ☐ Language is a barrier for both Latinos/as and whites and therefore, there should be language education for both groups. White people should learn to speak Spanish so they can integrate with the Latino/a community and build relationships. Just as Latinos/as should learn English for the same purpose.
- ☐ Bilingual education should work both ways and for everyone.
 - This is currently only available to more affluent schools (only 2 exist) or cities like Seattle (but they have the same problems)
- ☐ People give little value to Spanish but Spanish has its place and importance not only because of the population but also because of history
- ☐ There are currently insufficient ESL classes for the Spanish-speaking community to learn English
- ☐ There should be incentives for those who speak more than one language (i.e. tax-breaks maybe) and for those who want to learn another language
- ☐ There should be more emphasis on language, culture and diversity
- ☐ Latinos/as do not have opportunities to learn English.
- ☐ There are little to no programs and opportunities to learn Spanish for interested English speakers

CULTURE AND CUSTOMS

- ☐ Our people ask for work and infrastructure that our culture can endure and live with to become better members of society.
- ☐ Many of our people do not reach out to the any form of government for fear.
- ☐ Previously, there was no voice for our people in Yakima but now there are women on the City Council. Previously, seats were only occupied by white men in the county. Thus, the only representation available was white men for white men or white people. There was no voice for minorities, especially the second largest minority in the Yakima area: Latinos/as.
- ☐ The creation of new district lines would further help everyone equally
- ☐ We also want the white community to feel comfortable enough to build relationships with other minorities and thus mix more with the Latino/a community. There is currently insufficient integration between Latinos/as and whites; there is too much separation.
- ☐ Working hours are another huge obstacle for the quality of life. Farmers in America have a bad reputation for mistreatment of migrants. They overwork, abuse and pay unfair wages to workers. Many farmers take advantage of the citizenship status migrants have in the USA and play on the fear by threatening deportation and thus continue to habitually abuse Latinos/as.
- ☐ Assimilating to American culture can be a problem.
- ☐ Addressing gang issues through prevention measures
 - Access to basic resources such as second community/family centers
 - Prevention and treatment centers for drugs and alcohol
 - Better policies so people don't go straight to jail for minor offenses

- Improved programs by collaborating with the communities, non-profits and even private sectors
 - redistributing the taxes of alcohol, marijuana etc. to pay for education of responsible drug use drug prevention
- ❑ Huge disparity between the east and west of WA state; wealth and tax revenues concentrated in the west side. Little resources and programs for central and eastern WA
- ❑ There are very poor counties in Eastern WA where the majority are Latinos/as and native Americans
- ❑ There should be a better distribution of wealth and resources from a macroeconomic perspective
- ❑ Eastern WA should receive more opportunities to go after resources and grants

Next Generation: Roadmap to Washington's Future



NPC197041

By: Andrew Graminski, Brian Kirk, Nick Schmeck
Advisor: Dr. Tammi Laninga, AICP



Abstract:

Western Washington University students collected input from college students across the state to inform the William D. Ruckelshaus Center's review of the Growth Management Act (1990). The project's aim is to articulate a vision for Washington's desired future.

Introduction and Background:

Washington state passed the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990. The state legislature asked the William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Center), a joint effort of Washington State University and the University of Washington, created to foster collaborative public policy in the state of Washington and Pacific Northwest, to review it. The project, called the Road Map to Washington's Future, is to articulate a vision of Washington's future and identify additions, revisions, or clarifications to the state's growth management framework of laws, institutions, and policies needed to reach that future.

In Fall 2018, Joe Tovar, FAICP, from the Center, introduced the Road Map project at the APA Washington Chapter's NW Section forum hosted at Western Washington University (WWU). He described both their process, as well as invited interested student to get involved in the project. The Center organized a series of workshops statewide for professionals and elected officials, and conducted interviews with key stakeholders. They asked participants to assess how the GMA is working, to get perspectives on current issues facing different regions, and register their desires for Washington's future. To complement their work, WWU student, with the help of Dr. Laninga, took on the "Next Generation" project to collect similar input from college students across the state. The Next Gen project produced data to supplement the Ruckelshaus Center's work and gave UPSD students hands on experience.

Methods

We used a workshop and online survey to collect insights from college students across the state. Twenty-five participants attended the workshop and fourteen responded to the survey. We heard from students at four universities in Washington. The workshop and survey used the same set of open-ended questions:

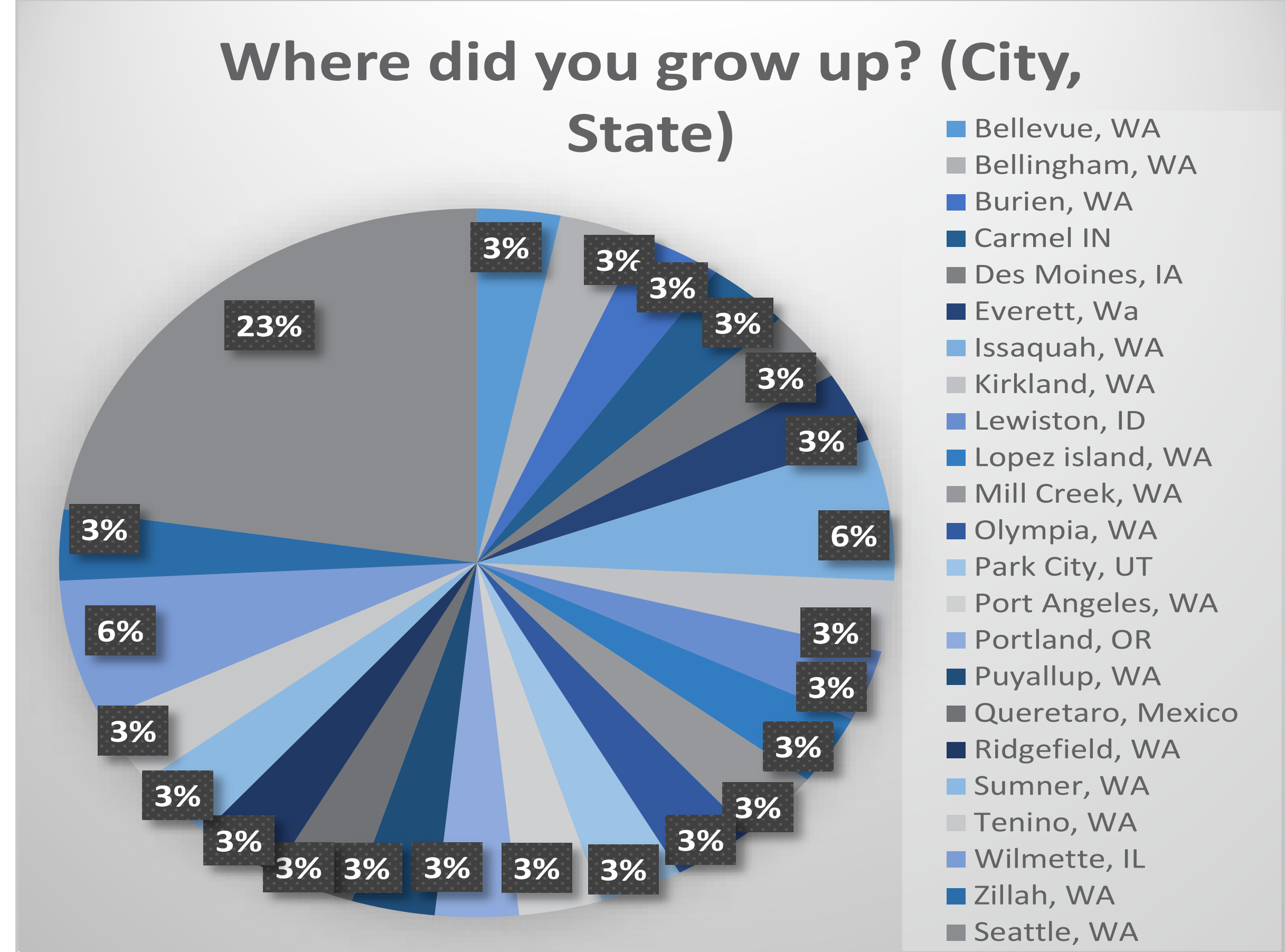
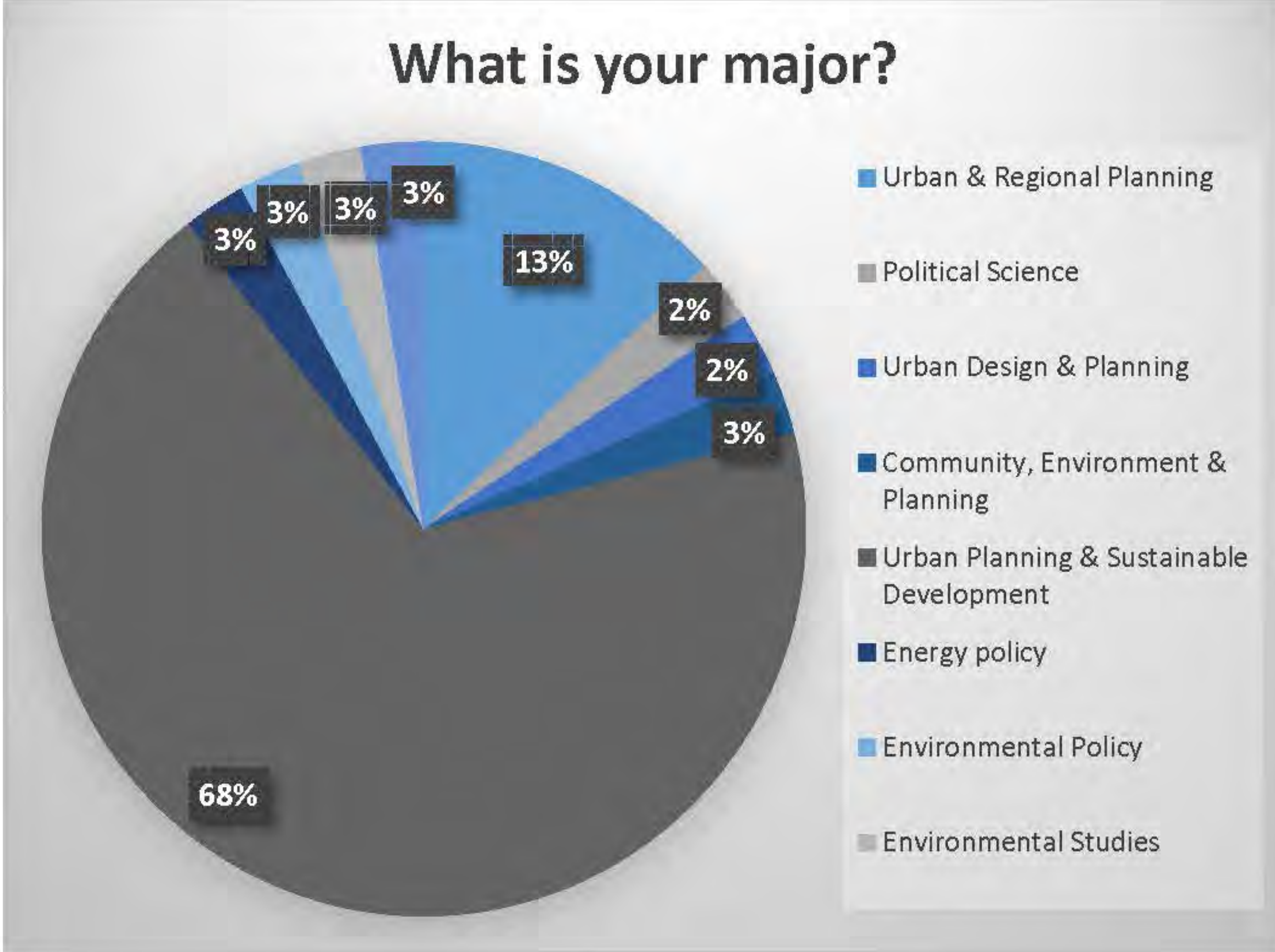
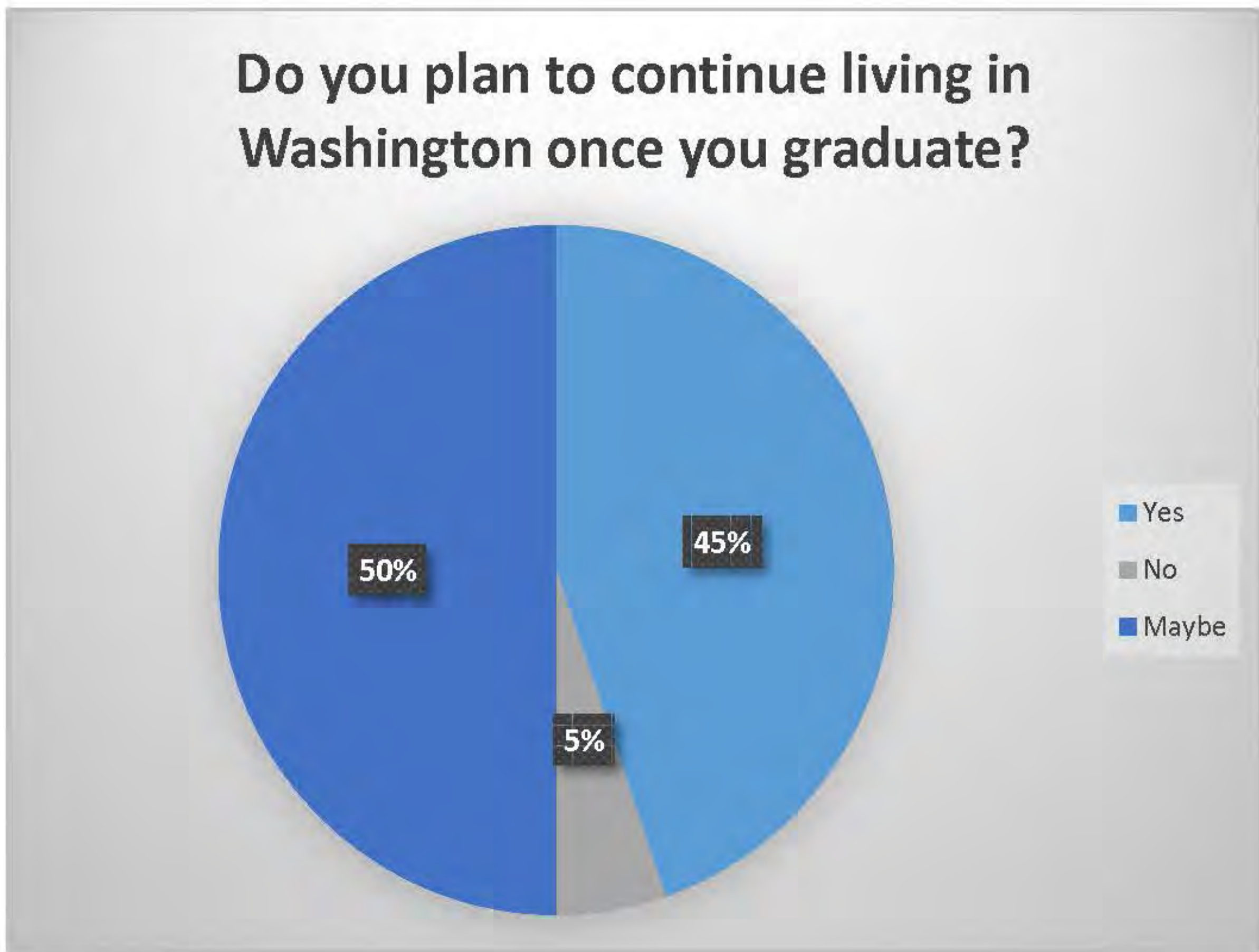
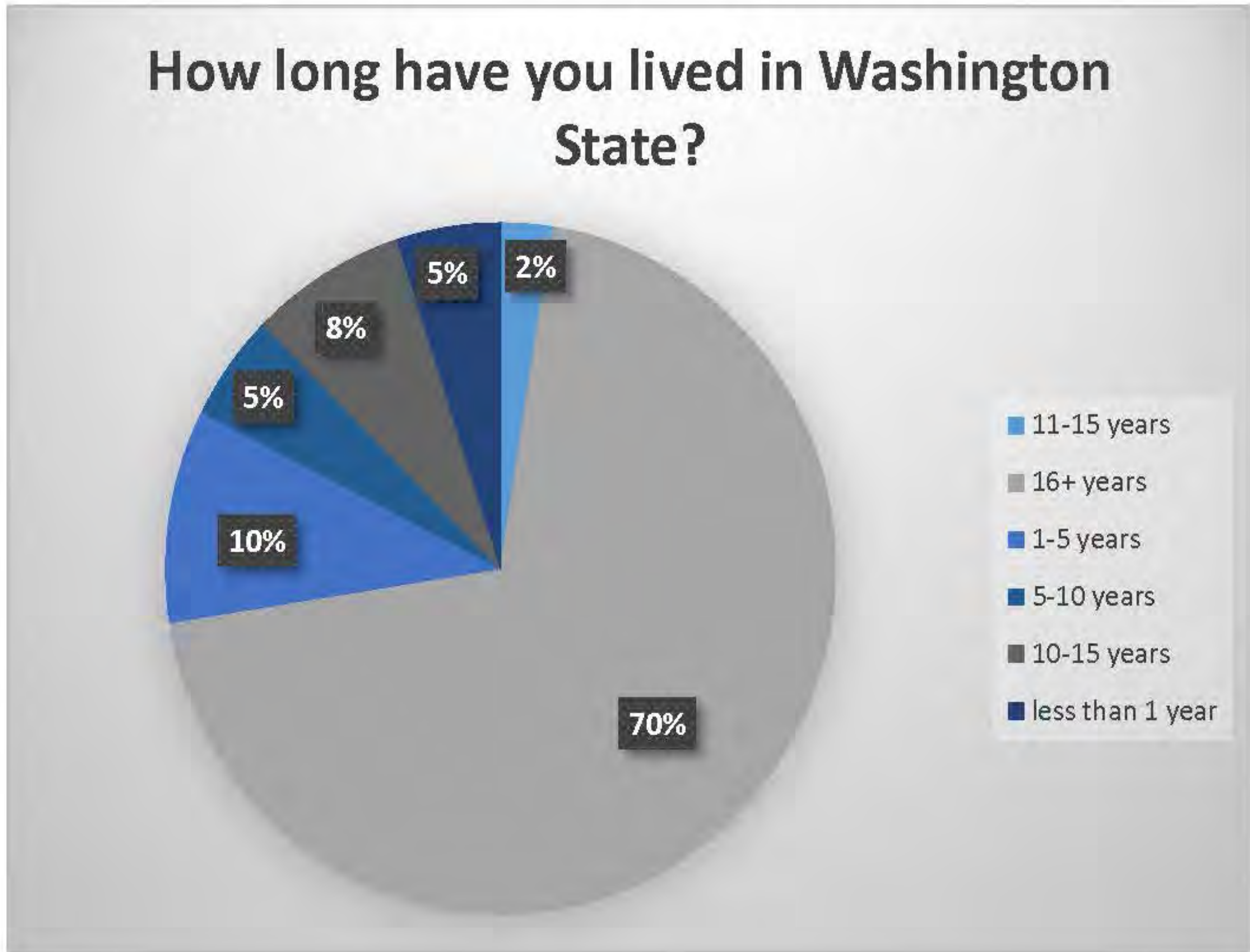
1. In general, what influences the quality of life in a community?
2. What do communities need to thrive?
3. In broad terms, what concerns do you have most about the future of the place you are currently living in?
4. What concerns do you have most about the future for Washington?
5. What is your desired future for Washington state?
6. What actions could local or state government take to positively influence Washington's future?

The qualitative data received from both collection methods was analyzed using content analysis and is reported in the tables.



A picture taken by Dr. Tammi Laninga at the workshop which was conducted at Western Washington University. This workshop had about 25 participants which were split up into three smaller groups for more inclusive discussion.

Demographics



Results:

Tables 1-6 highlight the major themes identified for each of the questions. Themes are listed based on frequency of mention (those at the top mentioned most often).

Table 1: Factors Influencing a Community's Quality of Life

Major Theme	Subthemes
Connectivity	Social connection, gathering places, knowing neighbors, community engagement, civic spaces, sense of pride, sense of place
Sustainability	Environmental quality (clean air & water), green/open space, contact with nature, urban boundaries to control sprawl
Affordability	Housing choices
Equity and Diversity	Welcoming communities, security, governments that support most vulnerable, education
Mobility	Transportation options (public transit, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure), proximity to parks, schools, libraries and other amenities

Table 2: Factors Contributing to Thriving Communities

Major Theme	Subthemes
Connectivity	Trust, community events, socioeconomic diversity
Affordability	Housing options, better shelter
Mobility	Transit options, accessibility to services, walkability
Education	Robust, accessible, high quality
Urban Centers	Well-defined core, local businesses, mixed use
Economy	Local businesses, local food
Environment	Clean water & air
Government	Supportive: social services for homeless, disabled & students

Table 3: Concerns about Current Community

Major Theme	Subthemes
Housing	Affordability, quality, accessibility, options
Growth/Development	Sprawl, loss of agricultural land, gentrification, loss of community character, decreased sense of place, lack of diversity, loss of community identity
Employment/Economy	Lack of nearby employment, loss of local businesses
Political divide	East/West Washington, Right/Left, Urban/Rural

Conclusion:

The Next Generation project provided insights from college students on their desired future for the state. Several themes were distilled from the project data including social connectivity, sustainability, affordability, education, environmental protection and many more. The themes show what many youth in Washington State want to see happen in the future related to planning and policy endeavors. The data is an important component for the review process of the Growth Management Act. The Next Gen project also gave WWU students outreach and facilitation skills, and data collection and analysis experience. The Next Gen project produced a facilitation guide that could be used by students or others who wish to continue this project. The facilitation guide provides instructions on how to facilitate a workshop including a full script and outreach methods. The facilitation guide can be adapted to fit any state that has a growth managements act or similar planning enabling statutes that could benefit from community input.

Table 4: Major Issues in the State that Need Addressing

Major Theme	Subthemes
Divisions	Wealth disparity/inequality, political divide (west/east WA), urban/rural divide
Environment	Wildfires, water and air pollution, climate change, hazards, rapid population growth/development, energy sources & use
Housing	Affordability, lack of supply, outdated zoning (majority of cities are zoned single-family)

Table 5: Desired Future for Washington State

Major Theme	Subthemes
Environment	Stewardship/protection of natural resources, less pollution, healthy air, real action on climate change, no offshore drilling
Sustainable Economic Growth	Sustainable Economic Growth
Housing	Affordable, accessible, available for all economic backgrounds (not just a playground for the wealthy)
Tribal Relations	Greater sovereignty, greater recognition of and collaboration with Coast Salish people
Services	Free education, sanctuary state, adequate support for those in need

Table 6: Actions Local and State Government Should Take

Major Theme	Subthemes
Legislative Reform	Rules & Regulations that: 1. Address specific/unique growth/development concerns of western and eastern WA; 2. Restrict sprawl, especially in suburban/rural areas by requiring dense urban centers with mixed use 3. Protect natural resources, fragile lands, and water, and limit/restrict pollution
Housing/Infill	Incentives for infill/affordable units, more subsidized housing, code reform (allow ADUs, micro apartments), reduce minimum parking standards
Governance	Progressive leaders, regional cooperation, more accessibility to government information (written in plain terms), restructure elections (get money out of politics), develop community-based services
Education	Increased funding and free tuition; increased focus on sustainability, natural resources, and agriculture; broader options (technical schools)
Transportation	Incentives/options to reduce reliance on automobiles

Acknowledgments: William D. Ruckelshaus Center Staff – Joe Tovar and Phyllis Shulman

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Western Washington University Huxley College of the Environment Faculty – Dr. Tammi Laninga, AICP

Road Map to Washington's Future - Next Generation Project Findings

Introduction

Western Washington University (WWU) worked with the William D. Ruckelshaus Center on the Road Map to Washington's Future. Specifically, WWU Urban Planning and Sustainable Development (UPSD) students and faculty engaged with the "Next Generation" component.

In Fall 2018, Joe Tovar, FAICP, from the Center, introduced the Road Map project at the APA Washington Chapter Northwest Section forum hosted at Western Washington University (WWU). He described both their process, as well as invited interested student to get involved in the project. The Center organized a series of workshops statewide for professionals and elected officials, and conducted interviews with key stakeholders. They asked participants to assess how the GMA is working, to get perspectives on current issues facing different regions, and register their desires for Washington's future. To complement their work, WWU student, with the help of Dr. Laninga, took on the "Next Generation" project to collect similar input from college students across the state. The Next Gen project produced data to supplement the Ruckelshaus Center's work and gave UPSD students hands on experience.

Methods

During summer 2018, Dr. Laninga and the student team completed an Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposal, identified a list of Washington schools, and drafted a workshop guide. Dr. Laninga incorporated the Next Generation project into her fall course, ENV 475 Community Development and Participatory Methods. The student team refined the workshop guide, created the online survey, and hosted a Next Generation workshop at Western Washington University.

Twenty-five participants attended the workshop at WWU and sixteen participants responded to the survey. We heard from students at four universities in Washington. The workshop and survey used the same set of open-ended questions:

1. In general, what influences the quality of life in a community?
2. What do communities need to thrive?
3. In broad terms, what concerns do you have most about the future of the place you are currently living in?
4. What concerns do you have most about the future for Washington?
5. What is your desired future for Washington state?
6. What actions could local or state government take to positively influence Washington's future?

The qualitative data received from both collection methods was analyzed using content analysis and is reported in the tables. The following report describes the findings from the project.

Findings

Tables 1-6 highlight the major themes identified for each of the questions. Themes are listed based on frequency of mention (those at the top mentioned most often).

Table 1: Factors Influencing a Community's Quality of Life

Major Theme	Subthemes
<i>Connectivity</i>	Social connection, gathering places, knowing neighbors, community engagement, civic spaces, sense of pride, sense of place
<i>Sustainability</i>	Environmental quality (clean air & water), green/open space, contact with nature, urban boundaries to control sprawl
<i>Affordability</i>	Housing choices
<i>Equity & Diversity</i>	Welcoming communities, security, governments that support most vulnerable, education
<i>Mobility</i>	Transportation options (public transit, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure), proximity to parks, schools, libraries and other amenities

Table 2: Factors Contributing to Thriving Communities

Major Theme	Subthemes
<i>Connectivity</i>	Trust, community events, networking, socioeconomic diversity
<i>Affordability</i>	Housing options, better shelter
<i>Mobility</i>	Transit options, accessibility to services, walkability
<i>Education</i>	Robust, accessible, high quality
<i>Urban Centers</i>	Well-defined core, local businesses, mixed use
<i>Economy</i>	Local businesses, local food
<i>Environment</i>	Clean water & air
<i>Government</i>	Supportive; social services for homeless, disabled & students

Table 3: Concerns about Current Community

Major Theme	Subthemes
<i>Housing</i>	Affordability, quality, accessibility, options
<i>Growth/Development</i>	Sprawl, loss of agricultural land, gentrification, loss of community character, decreased sense of place, lack of diversity, loss of community identity

<i>Employment/Economy</i>	Lack of nearby employment, loss of local businesses
<i>Political divide</i>	East/West Washington, Right/Left, Urban/Rural

Table 4: Major Issues in the State that Need Addressing

Major Theme	Subthemes
<i>Divisions</i>	Wealth disparity/inequality, political divide (west/east WA), urban/rural divide
<i>Environment</i>	Wildfires, water and air pollution, climate change, hazards, rapid population growth/development, energy sources & use
<i>Housing</i>	Affordability, lack of supply, outdated zoning (majority of cities are zoned single-family)

Table 5: Desired Future for Washington State

Major Theme	Subthemes
<i>Environment</i>	Stewardship/protection of natural resources, less pollution, healthy air, real action on climate change, no offshore drilling
<i>Sustainable Economic Growth</i>	Sustainable Economic Growth
<i>Housing</i>	Affordable, accessible, available for all economic backgrounds (not just a playground for the wealthy)
<i>Tribal Relations</i>	Greater sovereignty, greater recognition of and collaboration with Coast Salish people
<i>Services</i>	Free education, sanctuary state, adequate support for those in need

Table 6: Actions Local and State Government Should Take to Address Issues/Reach Desired Future

Major Theme	Subthemes
<i>Legislative Reform</i>	<p>Rules & Regulations that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address specific/unique growth/development concerns of western and eastern WA; Restrict sprawl, especially in suburban/rural areas by requiring dense urban centers with mixed use Protect natural resources, fragile lands, and water, and limit/restrict pollution

<i>Housing/Infill</i>	Incentives for infill/affordable units, more subsidized housing, code reform (allow ADUs, micro apartments), reduce minimum parking standards
<i>Governance</i>	Progressive leaders, regional cooperation, more accessibility to government information (written in plain terms), restructure elections (get money out of politics), develop community-based services
<i>Education</i>	Increased funding and free tuition; increased focus on sustainability, natural resources, and agriculture; broader options (technical schools)
<i>Transportation</i>	Incentives/options to reduce reliance on automobiles

Discussion

Themes related to **quality of life factors** (Table 1) are about a *community's livability*. Specifically, respondents discussed the importance of social connections, environmental protection, affordable housing and cost of living, equity and diversity, and transportation options.

Several themes identified as contributing to a **thriving community** (Table 2) are the same as quality of life: social connectivity, affordability, and mobility. Additional factors include a robust education system, health economy, vibrant urban centers, and a supportive local government.

Table 3 highlights respondents' **concerns for the community** where they live. The top theme is *housing* - affordability, access, options, followed closely by concerns about growth and development, particularly sprawl. Respondents are also worried about their local economy and the growing political divide.

Table 4 shows **issues that need to be addressed in the state** of Washington. The most frequently mentioned issue was *divisions* - in the form of political differences, income inequality, and urban/rural splits. The next most often discussed issue was the environment. Respondents mentioned a wide range of issues including: wildfires, water and air pollution, climate change, hazards, rapid population growth/development, energy sources and use. Finally, a recurring theme across most of the questions, is the issue of housing. Affordability, as well as supply, are the key issues. Outdated zoning codes was also discussed as an issue that impacts supply and affordability.

In discussing their **desired future for Washington** (Table 5), respondents were unanimous in wanting *strong protections and stewardship for the environment, along with sustainable economic growth*. Housing was mentioned again, especially related to affordability, and making sure that the state does not become a playground only for the wealthy. Respondents want better cooperation and collaboration with Tribal communities, and a wide range of services to support the state's residents including free education, safety nets for low-income residents and sanctuary for undocumented persons.

Respondents provided a number of specific **actions local/state government could take** (Table 6) to address issues and/or to reach their desired future for Washington state. *Legislative reform* was the most frequently mentioned theme, specific regulatory reform aimed at growth management and environmental protection. As in all the other responses, housing was featured prominently. Respondents want to see incentives for infill and affordable housing, as well as code reform to allow the building of alternative housing types like accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and micro apartments. Incentives for alternative modes of transportation was another concrete action mentioned. Governance was a major theme, where respondents discussed specific actions to create more responsive and transparent government, where money does not influence elections, and where regional cooperation and progressive leadership is fostered. Finally, respondents want action and support for education, with more funding, free tuition for residents, more options, and a stronger emphasis on sustainability and natural resource protection.

Conclusion

The Next Generation project provided insights from college students on their desired future for the state. Several themes were distilled from the project data including social connectivity, sustainability, affordability, education, environmental protection and many more. The list below provides a summary of the main themes per topic.

Major Themes: Quality of Life & Thriving Communities

- Social Connections
- Sustainability
- Affordable Housing Options
- Mobility Options
- Equity & Diversity
- Education for all
- Vibrant Urban Centers
- Responsive/Supportive Government

Major Themes: Community Concerns & Issues Facing Washington

- Housing Affordability
- Rapid Population Growth & Low-density Development
- Political, Income and Social Divisions
- Environmental Quality & Climate Change
- Economy - big tech vs. local businesses

Major Themes: Desired Future for Washington

- Environmental Protection
- Sustainable Economic Growth
- Housing Affordability
- Improved Tribal Relations
- Supportive Social/Community Services

Major Themes: Local/State Government Action

- Legislative Reform - Growth Management and Environmental Protection
- Incentives - Housing, Infill, Transportation Options
- Code Reform - Parking Standards, Housing Types
- Governance - Regional Cooperation, Accessible Information
- Education - Increased Funding, More Options

The themes show what many youth in Washington State want to see happen in the future related to planning and policy endeavors. This data is an important component for the review process of the Growth Management Act.

The Next Gen project also gave WWU students outreach and facilitation skills, and data collection and analysis experience. In addition to the hands-on experience, the Next Gen project produced a facilitation guide that could be used by students or others who wish to continue this project. The facilitation guide provides instructions on how to facilitate a workshop including a full script and outreach methods. The facilitation guide can be adapted to fit any state that has a growth managements act or similar planning enabling statutes that could benefit from community input.