



Comprehensive Plan Rural Lands

Background

Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA) creates a separate category for rural areas, which are outside of designated urban areas, and which are not in long-term resource use (agriculture, forest, or mineral) lands. By creating a separate category, the GMA focuses attention on how these non-resource lands may be developed, and on their relationship to resource lands. Rural settings differ from their urban and suburban counterparts and require a different type of approach to be effective.

Importance

Rural lands and rural character hold great importance for Spokane County's economy, people, and environment by enhancing the economic desirability of the county, helping preserve traditional economic activities, and contributing the county's overall quality of life. Rural areas and their unique character present opportunities special to their communities, and emphasis should be placed on preserving rural economies and traditional rural lifestyles; the economic prosperity of rural residents through small-scale, rural-based employment and self-employment; compatibility with the use of land by wildlife and for fish and wildlife habitat; private stewardship of rural land and the preservation of open space; and overall enhancing the rural sense of community and quality of life.

Key Concepts

Limited Areas of More Intense Rural

Development (LAMIRD): Isolated pockets of more intense development in the rural area.

Rural Character: Refers to the patterns of land use and development established by the county.

Rural Development: Refers to development outside the urban growth area and outside of agricultural, forest, and mineral resource lands. This development can consist of a variety of uses and residential densities at levels that are consistent with the preservation of rural character and other requirements in the GMA.

Rural Governmental Services: Public services and facilities historically and typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas, such as domestic water systems, fire and police protection services associated with rural development and normally not associated with urban areas.

