

Recreation, Parks, ~~and~~ Open Space and Natural Environment

11.1. Introduction

Being centrally located with the state and easily accessed by two interstate highways, Kittitas County has become a recreational destination for many people. Both public and privately-owned land and facilities are utilized throughout the year from snow skiing and hunting in the winter to fishing, hiking, and river floats in the summer.

As illustrated in the Land Use Element, approximately 64% of Kittitas County is owned by state and federal agencies. These lands, particularly the Wenatchee and Snoqualmie National Forest, L.T. Murray and Quilomene Wildlife Recreation Areas, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) trust lands, offer the public the greatest opportunity for outdoor recreation. In total, Kittitas County has designated 87,478 acres as Public Recreation on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map.

Advisory Groups and Public Process

This Element has been updated with the input of the general public through the public participation process that was outlined earlier in this Plan. In addition, an Advisory Group has been instrumental in revisions and additions to this Element, and their input is reflected in the Goals and Policies sections in particular. Some areas that were of importance to the Advisory Group that are worthy for mention as potential projects or issues for future County consideration are as follows:

- Kittitas County does not currently have a Parks Department. The Advisory Group agreed that the County should consider the creation of a Parks Department to support the implementation of this Element and other parks planning efforts throughout the County.
- The Advisory Group agreed that Kittitas County should provide support to other entities engaged in parks planning, including Parks and Recreation Districts.
- To better protect and preserve recreational opportunities, the Advisory Group recommended that the County consider creating a new land use and zoning district for public lands.
- The Advisory Group recommended that Kittitas County create and support a vision and strategic plan for recreation and tourism.
- The Advisory Group expressed a need for improved mapping of critical areas to facilitate the implementation of the Critical Areas Ordinance.

~~The County Recreation Plan/Outdoor Recreation Inventory is adopted by reference as meeting the requirements of the Recreation and Parks element.~~ Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan

In 2016 Kittitas County adopted a Park, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan via Resolution Number 2016-076 and the Plan is hereby adopted by reference and its Goals and Policies are incorporated into this Comprehensive Plan.

The PROS Plan analyzes the supply, demand and need for open spaces, trails, and park facilities throughout Kittitas County. The Plan included a varied public participation process that included internet surveys, surveys conducted at the County Fair, and public workshops and forums.

The PROS Plan establishes a detailed list of goals and policies that were developed in the following categories:

- Kittitas County's strategic role
 - The purpose of this goal is to establish a strategic approach to determine when and where Kittitas County should assume a lead role in the provision of recreations opportunities and when it can should participate in the coordination of the efforts of other entities with similar missions.
- Recreation Program goals
 - The purpose of this goal is to establish policies that will assist in the promotion of healthy lifestyles for Kittitas County residents.
- Cultural arts goals
 - This goal is intended to promote diversified cultural arts facilities and programs throughout Kittitas County.
- Resources conservation goals
 - The focus of this goal is to plan, coordinate and preserve unique environments including wetlands, wildlife habitat, opens spaces, forestlands, and scenic areas.
- Historical preservation goals
 - This goal seeks to assist in the planning, coordination and preservation places and areas of historical significance when it is appropriate for the County to do so.
- Goals for the establishment and maintenance of trail systems
 - This goal covers the planning, development and operation of a wide variety of trail types, including hiking, bicycle, ORV and horse riding opportunities.
- Goals for the establishment and maintenance or resource-oriented park sites and facilities
 - This goal focuses on the planning, development and operation of facilities to encourage resource-oriented recreation such as fishing, hunting, boating, camping and swimming.

- Goals for playgrounds and fields
 - This goal supports the development of an integrated system of playgrounds, courts and fields throughout Kittitas County.
- Goals for recreation facilities
 - This goal focuses on providing an array of indoor facilities, ranging from swimming pools, and gymnasiums to facilities for arts and crafts, classrooms and meeting rooms.
- Goals for special purpose facilities that may not be provided or managed by other entities, such as the Ellensburg Water Park.
 - The goal is to provide a coordination or support role to public and private agencies that provide services and opportunities that are not clearly defined or provided by traditional County services or agencies, ranging from the Nature Conservancy to the Washington State Horse Park.
- Goals for establishing design standards to ensure safety and accessibility
 - This goal is intended to ensure that all Kittitas County facilities are designed to be safe, accessible and easy to maintain throughout the life of the facility.
- Goals and policies for identifying and managing the financial resources needed to acquire, maintain and manage parks, recreation and open space facilities
 - The purpose of this goal is to develop guidelines that will ensure facilities are developed and operated in a manner that provides the greatest public benefits for the least cost and to ensure that costs are distributed equitably.

11.2. Existing Conditions

Spring/Summer Opportunities

The Yakima River, with its head-waters located in Kittitas County, provides an abundance of recreational opportunities to county residents and tourists. Ranked by many as one of the west's top natural fisheries, the Yakima River attracts many sports fishermen from around the state, as well as local citizens. In addition to the Yakima River, a number of lakes, streams, and creeks provide great fishing potential for county residents and tourists.

In addition to sports fishing opportunities, the Yakima River is utilized by many county residents for river floats. In response to the increasing public use the Bureau of Land Management has improved a number of recreational sites within the Yakima River Canyon. The Roza Dam Recreational Facility provides sanitary facilities, waste receptacles, picnic areas, and a boat launch for users of the Yakima River.

Kittitas County provides the only improved, non-fee boat launch facility to the Columbia River in Kittitas County. This facility is located within the Vantage town site and also provides sanitary facilities, picnic areas, and waste receptacles. Although most heavily used from late spring to early fall, this launch is open year round.

The vast number of public lands in Kittitas County, offer county citizens with hiking, camping, biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle (ORV) activities throughout the year. The L.T. Murray Wildlife Recreation area is perhaps the most widely used for these purposes. In order to promote non-motorized transportation, Kittitas County has provided a bike lane on Umptanum Road to Irene Rinehart Park and a pedestrian path on Airport Road to Bowers Field.

Various park projects have been ~~processes and~~ developed. The Coal Mines Trail is an example of the development of a multi-jurisdiction regional trail, which follows the old rail corridor between Cle Elum, Roslyn to Ronald. While the trail is managed by a six member Trail Commission, the trail is owned by the three jurisdictions through which it passes: Cle Elum, Roslyn and Kittitas County. The property was acquired in 1994. Development of the trail and trailheads is underway and improvements are continuing.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission operate and maintain a number of parks in Kittitas County, including, but not limited to, the Easton, Olmsted, and Ginko State Parks. Also, the John Wayne Trail is operated and maintained by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The John Wayne Trail provides citizens of Kittitas County with a non-motorized transportation route.

Fall/Winter Opportunities

Large areas of Kittitas County provide excellent opportunities for County residents as well as non-residents to hunt with modern firearms, muzzleloaders and archery equipment for a variety of big and small game animals, migratory waterfowl and numerous other game birds as defined by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. There are ten Game management Units in Kittitas County designated by the WDFW for hunting deer, elk, bear and cougar as well as special permit areas for deer, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goat. The various hunting seasons begin in August and end in March with defined time periods for each species of game animals and game birds. The Yakima River also provides ample opportunities for the winter sport of fishing for whitefish which are abundant.

Other popular fall and winter recreational activities in Kittitas County are downhill and cross-country skiing. There are three private ski facilities located at Snoqualmie Pass, offering downhill and cross-country skiing and snow boarding areas for the public.

Sno-parks provide County residents and tourists with parking areas to access snow mobile, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing areas. The Washington State Parks Department currently provides a number of sno-parks within Kittitas County. Under a maintenance agreement with Washington State Parks Department, Kittitas County maintains five (5) of these sno-parks. This includes: Kachees Lake Road, Salmon La Sac Road, Teanaway Road, Recer Creek Road, and Naneum Road.

11.3. Recreational Safety

According to the Kittitas County Sheriff's Department, the Cle Elum River drainage is the number one recreational destination in the Pacific Northwest and Kittitas County as a whole is the number one snow mobile destination during the winter months. In order to provide a public safety and law enforcement to remote areas of

the County, the Sheriff's Department has a variety of equipment to support the various recreation activities available in Kittitas County.

11.4. Future Recreational Opportunities

As the population of Kittitas County grows, there may be an increased demand for improved recreational facilities and parks for County residents and tourists. In order to provide for the possible increased demands, Kittitas County is partnering and working with various government entities to fund various opportunities for parks and recreational facilities. Kittitas County has already achieved inter-jurisdictional parks/recreation projects with the various governments through establishment of the West Ellensburg Park, the Upper Kittitas County Youth Baseball Association Complex in Cle Elum and the City of Cle Elum Skate Park.

During the course of the planning period, Kittitas County may conduct feasibility studies for the future parks within other urban growth areas. The foundation of the work contained in the County Recreation Plan/Outdoor Recreation Inventory, adopted by reference, also identifies future recreation opportunities for the county.

- [Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District #1](#)

[Formed in 2005, the Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District #1 is a potentially important partner for providing important recreational facilities and opportunities, particularly in northeastern Kittitas County. In August 2016 the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners affirmed its support for the District's goals and mission.¹ In particular, the Commissioners highlighted the importance of expanding the trail network in the County to provide increased access to hikers, mountain bikers, trail riders and recreational tourists. Also highlighted was the importance of parking facilities along the County's waterways to support greater access to recreation.](#)

[Although the Parks District does not have taxing authority it is currently engaged in several donation-funded projects in the County that will add to the County's portfolio of recreation opportunities. According to the District, the biggest projects underway are as follows:](#)

- [Towns to Teanaway Corridor Project – This is a regional trail network planning process that will result in a Master Plan for establishing a trail network to connect the Cle Elum, Roslyn, Ronald and Suncadia to the Teanaway Community Forest.](#)
- [Howard Carlin Trailhead Park – working in conjunction with the City of Cle Elum and The Coal Mines Trail Commission, this project will result in a new park at the entrance to the Coal Mines Trail in Cle Elum.](#)

¹ [Letter of Support for Kittitas County Parks and Recreation District #1, August 2, 2016.](#)

11.5. Potential Impacts

~~This section discusses various potential impacts, which could arise as development occurs within the County. Although general potential impacts can be identified, specific development proposals will continue to be reviewed for additional and project specific impacts.~~

As growth continues to occur both in the urban and rural areas of Kittitas County, there may be increased impacts on existing recreational areas and a demand for additional areas and opportunities. In order to address the potential demands and impacts, Kittitas County has taken the approach that incorporated communities should be primarily responsible for organized recreational opportunities and park systems, while the County is primarily responsible for the unorganized, passive recreational opportunities.

The 2016 PROS Plan identifies the projected growth of Western Washington counties and counties adjacent to Kittitas County as having a potential impact on Kittitas County recreation. This is because, according to the PROS Plan, the County's recreational opportunities are utilized at a high rate of demand by out-of-County tourists, and this tourism traffic is linked to the I-90 and US-2 corridors. The Kittitas County Tourism Plan indicated that 33% of its respondents lived in the Puget Sound Region and another 18% lived in other parts of Western Washington, for a total of 51% of respondents. While growth within Kittitas County will require expanded recreational facilities and opportunities to maintain levels of service and quality of life for Kittitas County residents, the expansion of facilities and opportunities for out-of-County residents will be important to the economic prosperity of the County for attracting tourism.

11.6. Future Projects

Following is a summary table that captures all the projects that were identified in the 2016 PROS Plan as potential recreation and open space opportunities for Kittitas County in the future. Please refer to the 2016 PROS Plan for a comprehensive list of existing facilities as well as a more detailed description of the potential future projects.

Table 11.1 Potential Project as Identified in the 2016 PROS Plan

<u>Recreation/Open Space Category</u>	<u>Potential Project or Acquisition</u>
<u>Conservancies /Natural Resources – These are properties where conservation would be realized through the acquisition of development rights or outright acquisition for the purpose of preserving environmental resources, providing linkages between other open spaces, etc.</u>	<u>Gladmar Park</u>
	<u>Mountain to Sound Greenway at Cle Elum</u>
<u>Resource Parks – These properties primarily would provide public access to areas with significant environmental features, such as shorelines, woodlands, and scenic areas</u>	<u>Gladmar Park – waterfront access</u>
	<u>Kittitas County Event Center RV Park – campsites</u>
<u>Walking and Hiking Trails – These projects would</u>	<u>Gladmar Park</u>

provide links throughout communities to a variety of recreational sites, opportunities and environmental assets.	
Multipurpose Trails – These trails will generally provide for several modes of recreational and commuter use.	Skyline Trail Ellensburg Greenway John Wayne Trail Reconnection River to Rodeo Trail McCabe Ringer Loop Reecer Creek Trail City Parks Trail (Reecer Creek Trail) BOR Trail Spray Fields Trail Hanson Pits Trail Wetlands Trail (Thrall Road) River Walk Trail (Umtanum Creek Rec Area) Yakima River Canyon Scenic Byway Trails Pacific Crest to John Wayne Trail
On-road Bicycle Routes – The purpose is to create an integrated cycling network throughout the County.	U-Fish Road Kachess Dam Road/NF-4818 NF-4828/Kachess Lake Road Nelson Siding Road Bullfrog Road/Salmon LaSac Trailhead Cle Elum Valley Road/NF-4330 Upper Peoh Point Road/Thorp Highway Thorp Highway Thorp Cemetery Road Cove Road Canyon Road/SR-821 Reecer Creek Road SR-10 Cle Elum – Ellensburg Bender/Sanders Roads/Alder Street Brick/Brick Mill Road Kittitas Highway Vantage Highway Wilson Creek/Number 6 Road Thrall Road/SR-821 Boylston Road US-97 Ellensburg to Swauk Creek SR 970/US-97 Cle Elum to Leavenworth
On and Off-leash Dog Trails and Areas	Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park Rotary Park
Scenic Byways, Corridors, and Viewpoints	Cle Elum to Ellensburg on SR-10 Vantage Highway
Skateboard/BMX Facilities	Ellensburg Kiwanis Park Ellensburg Rotary Park
Courts – Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis	Ellensburg Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park Ellensburg Mountain View Park

Fields – Football, Soccer, Baseball and Softball	Cle Elum Four Seasons Aquatic Center
Swimming Facilities	Cle Elum Four Seasons Aquatic Center
Physical Conditioning Facilities	Ellensburg Community Center
Gymnasiums	Ellensburg Community Center
Meeting Rooms	Kittitas Valley Event Center
	Ellensburg Community Center
Community Centers – Youth, Teen, Senior	Ellensburg Community Center
Public Plaza and Streetscapes	CWU to downtown Ellensburg

~~11.6.~~ 11.7. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goals, Policies and Objectives and Policies

~~GPO 11.1 Kittitas County should encourage and does provide new or enhance existing recreational areas whenever feasible.~~

~~GPO 11.2 Kittitas County may create a comprehensive recreation plan which:~~

- ~~▪ Incorporates new parks / recreational areas into growth planning;~~
- ~~▪ Establishes additional passive recreation sites and opportunities; and~~
- ~~▪ Formulates recreational guidelines.~~

~~GPO 11.3 Kittitas County should promote private/public and private/nonprofit partnerships to finance capital improvements to public parks / recreational areas.~~

~~GPO 11.4 Reserved~~

~~GPO 11.5 Kittitas County will engage in discussions with the incorporated communities within the County through the Regional Services Sub-Committee of the Kittitas County Conference of Governments to address the economic impacts on those communities resulting from the provision of organized, active recreation facilities to the unincorporated citizens of the County.~~

~~GPO 11.6 Kittitas County shall consider recreation needs and the services, which the County is able to provide by developing a countywide recreation plan in coordination with other agencies and jurisdictions within Kittitas County. Recreation opportunities and facilities include, but are not limited to parks, trails, river access, public lands access, campgrounds and picnic facilities.~~

Goals

RPO-G1: Kittitas County should encourage the enhancement of exiting recreational areas and the development of new areas whenever feasible.

RPO-G2: Kittitas County should promote private/nonprofit partnerships to finance capital improvements to public parks/recreational areas.

RPO-G3: Kittitas County should provide education and enforcement to ensure a balance of safe recreational use and protection of critical areas.

RPO-G4: Kittitas County should maintain public access for multiple uses on public lands.

RPO-G5: Kittitas County should adopt, financially support and implement a long-range vision and strategic plan for Kittitas County recreation. The vision and plan would guide development of recreation and related programs, taking into consideration the following:

- Quality of life for County residents
- Recreation impacts on communities
- Community involvement in recreation
- Economic and environmental impacts of recreational tourism
- Cooperation with communities, other agencies or departments, land owners and other stakeholders

RPO-G6: Kittitas County should recognize, utilize and improve upon existing plans, including the Kittitas County Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan and the Kittitas County Tourism Infrastructure Plan.

RPO-G7: Kittitas County should enforce public safety and recreation rules and regulations such as permit requirements and appropriate use.

RPO-G8: Kittitas County should develop new incentives to promote parks, recreation and tourism.

RPO-G9: Kittitas County should support and encourage the purchase and dedication of lands by public or private organizations for Parks and Recreation.

Policies

RPO-P1: Create and maintain a comprehensive recreation plan which:

- Incorporates new parks/recreational areas into growth planning
- Establishes additional passive recreation sites and opportunities
- Formulates recreational guidelines
- Includes cooperation with county and city recreation districts and committees
- Creates a long range vision for recreation

RPO-P2: Consider recreation needs and the services the County is able to provide by developing a countywide recreation plan in coordination with other agencies and jurisdictions within Kittitas County. Recreation opportunities and facilities include, but are not limited to parks, trails, river access, public lands access, campgrounds and picnic facilities.

RPO-P3: Recognize the important functions served by private and public open space, designate and map public and private open space of regional importance, and designate open space corridors within and around urban growth areas.

RPO-P4: Provide a land use designation for public and private open space of regional/statewide significance. These areas are identified because their recreational, environmental, scenic, cultural, and other open space benefits extend beyond the local area.

RPO-P5: Develop a program to identify and prioritize open space corridors and greenbelts within and between urban growth areas that include lands useful for recreation, wildlife habitat, trails, and connection of critical areas.

11.8. Natural Environment

Kittitas County is blessed with an abundance of natural environments, ranging from shorelines and wetlands to shrub steppe habitat and important migration routes. Natural features, such as floodplains or steep slopes areas that are susceptible to landslides or erosion, also are considered as significant natural environments that are important to protect as Kittitas County develops in the future.

Kittitas County protects its natural environments through a variety of plans and tools, ranging from an ongoing effort to document and map critical areas to the adoption of plans such as the County's Shoreline Master Program and Critical Areas Ordinance, both of which are incorporated by reference into this Comprehensive Plan.

- Shoreline Master Program

A central planning and regulatory tool for the protection of shorelines is the County's Shoreline Master Program (SMP). The SMP implements the statewide Shoreline Management Act of 1971, Chapter 90.58 RCW. Every city and county in the state is required to have a local SMP to regulate development within 200 feet of all designated shorelines. The shorelines that are regulated under the SMP are those streams that have an annual mean flow greater than 20 cfs (cubic feet per second) and lakes larger than 20 acres. Streams and waterbodies that do not meet the threshold for regulation under the SMP usually are protected under the County's Critical Areas Ordinance.

- Critical Areas Ordinance

All County's planning under the state's Growth Management Act (GMA), Chapter RCW 36.70A, are required to have an adopted Critical Area's Ordinance (CAO). Kittitas County is currently updating its CAO to reflect Best Available Science as well as changes in policies and regulations that have occurred since the last update, and the County expects the CAO to be finalized in 2018. The CAO regulates the following critical areas:

- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas
- Frequently Flooded Areas
- Geologically Hazardous Areas
- Wetlands

- Voluntary Stewardship Program

Established in 2011, the Washington State Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) provides an alternative approach for Counties to address the Growth Management Act's requirements for agricultural activities. Existing agricultural enterprises are regulated by the standards and policies established in the Kittitas County VSP, as developed and administered by the Kittitas County Conservation District. Those agricultural areas participating in the VSP are exempt from the County's Critical Areas Ordinance. The Natural Environment Goals and Policies enumerated in this Comprehensive Plan do not apply to those lands that participate in the VSP. Those lands participating in the VSP will be subject to the stewardship goals and policies enumerated in the VSP.

11.9. Natural Environment Goals and Policies

Goals

NE-G1: Designate and protect the functions and values of critical areas consistent with Best Available Science.

- NE-G2: Support floodplain restoration to reduce flood hazards and promote water consideration on the landscape.
- NE-G3: Implement and update as needed a comprehensive management program for water resources.
- NE-G4: Promote efforts to connect habitat and open space on private lands and open space on public lands.
- NE-G5: Maintain a Shoreline Master Program that is consistent with the State Shoreline Management Act and which reflects Best Available Science.
- NE-G6: Maintain a Critical Areas Ordinance that is consistent with the Growth Management Act and which reflects Best Available Science.

Policies

- General Critical Areas

- NE-P1: Protect surface and groundwater resources.
- NE-P2: Give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries, including measures that protect habitat important for all life stages of anadromous fish.
- NE-P3: Use Best Available Science to regulate development in a manner that balances protection of property rights and human health and safety with protection of critical area functions and values.
- NE-P4: Develop regulations and performance standards to mitigate land use incompatibilities in and adjacent to critical areas and their buffers for new and expanded uses and structures.
- NE-P5: Use a preference-based system of mitigation sequencing that reduces impacts using approaches ranging from avoidance to replacement.
- NE-P6: Identify and map critical areas throughout the County and ensure that the information is accessible to and understandable by citizens.
- NE-P7: Evaluate opportunities to:
1. Use innovative land use management techniques to conserve and protect designated critical areas.
 2. Use non-regulatory measure to protect and enhance critical areas (e.g. education, transfer of development rights).
 3. Encourage restoration and enhancement of critical area functions and values through incentives (e.g. development flexibility).
 4. Compensate property owners impacted by critical area regulations (e.g. modified taxation, value-added development flexibility).
- NE-P8: Develop incentives to promote agricultural and environmental stewardship, such as the Voluntary Stewardship Program, to protect critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture.
- NE-P9: The County shall coordinate its own programs, regulations and mapping with public, tribal and private organizations to protect and, where feasible, enhance the functions and values of critical areas.

NE-P10: Except as required by the Growth Management Act, the County shall develop performance standards and regulations that are complementary and not duplicative or more restrictive than other existing and applicable regulations (e.g. federal or state regulation).

NE-P11: CAO regulations should recognize that some minor activities in critical areas or their buffers may be exempt from critical area regulations due to their low likelihood of adverse impact.

NE-P12: Support and encourage the purchase and dedication of lands by public or private organizations for critical area protection and apply Best Management Practices to said property.

- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

NE-P13: Designate and protect the functions and values of medium and high susceptibility critical aquifer recharge areas.

NE-P14: Recognize that some aquifers have critical recharging effects on streams, lakes, and wetlands that provide critical fish and wildlife habitat and that protecting adequate recharge of such aquifers may benefit fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

NE-P15: Develop performance standards and regulations for new activities and expanded uses likely to adversely impact water quality in aquifers.

NE-P16: Identify and map critical aquifer recharge areas. Continue data collection and evaluation efforts to better understand the vulnerability of County critical aquifer recharge areas to contamination.

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

NE-P17: Designate and protect and where feasible, enhance the functions and values of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.

NE-P18: Evaluate opportunities to protect fish and wildlife habitat on a regional and site-specific scale, considering the following:

1. Habitat connectivity;
2. Habitat diversity;
3. Areas of high species diversity;
4. Unique and rare habitats; and
5. Winter range and migratory bird habitats of seasonal importance.

NE-P19: Support actions that protect species from becoming listed as sensitive, threatened, or endangered.

- Frequently Flooded Areas

NE-P20: Designate and protect, and where feasible, enhance the functions and values of frequently flooded areas.

NE-P21: Prevent the loss of like of property and minimize public and private costs associated with repairing or preventing flood damages from development in frequently flooded areas.

NE-P22: Maintain Kittitas County's eligibility under the National Flood Insurance program.

NE-P23: New or expanded uses or structures shall avoid impacts that reduce the effective flood storage volume within frequently flooded areas. When impacts are unavoidable, such impacts should be mitigated with compensatory storage, when feasible.

NE-P24: Evaluate opportunities to increase the reservoir capacity of the river system in a manner beneficial to flood control and the public welfare.

NE-P25: Support the County Flood Control District to manage flood related issues and to implement projects that prevent or reduce damage during floods.

- Geologically Hazardous Areas

NE-P26: Designate and protect the function and value of geologically hazardous areas.

NE-P27: Appropriate mitigation measure should be required to either avoid or recue significant public health and safety risks that are posed by geologically hazardous areas.

NE-P28: Potential impacts and alternative mitigation measures to eliminate or minimize the impacts in geologically hazardous areas shall be documented during the review of development applications.

NE-P29: Restrict development in geologically hazardous areas, including areas which are subject to erosion, landslide, channel migration, avalanche, or subsidence.

NE-P30: Risk of erosion shall be considered during the review of development applications based on localized rainfall, soil type, slope, drainage, run-off, and other site factors.

NE-P31: Siting of structures on known individual mine hazard areas shall be avoided, and where it cannot ve avoided, the danger of mine hazards should be adequately considered.

NE-P32: Identify and map geologically hazardous areas, including but not limited to erosion areas, landslide areas, seismic areas, channel migration zones, alluvial fan hazard areas, mine hazard areas, and volcanic hazards.

NE-P33: Continue data collection and evaluation efforts to better understand the rishs of County geologically hazardous areas.

NE-P34: At such time there are colcanic or seismic hazards identified and mapped in the County, any application for development in or near that area must show its location in relation to the hazard area.

- Wetlands

NE-P35: Designate and protect, and where feasible, enhance the functions and values of wetlands.

NE-P36: Wetlands shall be protected because they provide important functions such as assisting in the reduction of erosion, siltation, flooding, ground and surface water pollution, and providing wildlife, plant, and fisheries habitats.

NE-P37: Develop a regulatory program for wetlands protection that is both sufficiently flexible to allow reasonable use and enjoyment of private property and consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA).

NE-P38: Encourage the implementation of wetlands enhancement strategies that will result in a gain of wetlands habitat in the long term.

NE-P39: Wetland identification, delineation, categorization, and, where appropriate, mitigation, shall rely on guidance from the Washington State Department of Ecology, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Environmental Protection Agency.