

3.4 Population Information

As noted in the Washington Department of Commerce (formerly Community Trade and Economic Development) 1999 guidebook “Keeping the Rural Vision Protecting Rural Character & Planning for Rural Development,” the Growth Management Act (GMA) does not require that rural capacity match rural population allocations. Rural capacity and opportunities for rural growth should, however, be taken into consideration in designating rural densities. As such, the population information below will be considered by the County in determining rural densities to be proposed later in the compliance process and whether such densities are contrary to protecting rural character and directing growth to urban areas.

3.4.1 Population Allocation

The GMA directs the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to prepare population projections in consultation with counties (RCW 43.62.035). Kittitas County has allocated population to the rural area as part of the population allocation process for the entire County. This allocation is included in the Kittitas County County-wide Planning Policies that were last amended on November 2, 2010 (Ordinance No. 2010-012, and the allocation is consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act.

In 2010 the Kittitas County Conference of Governments (KCCOG) allocated the State’s OFM 2002 projected 2025 County population of 52,810 to each jurisdiction and their adopted Urban Growth Areas, to the County’s unincorporated area outside these Urban Growth Areas and to a Reserve area. **Table 3.4-1** below outlines the percentage allocation of the projected population to each jurisdiction and the rural County area adopted by the KCCOG on November 2, 2010. This allocation is used today by the Conference of Governments for development of plans according to the Growth Management Act.

Table 3.4-1 Population Allocation by Kittitas County Council of Governments (KCCOG)

Jurisdiction	COG Allocation	Projected 2025 Allocation	Reserve
Roslyn	2.5%	1,584	159
South Cle Elum	1.5%	792	79
Kittitas	4.26%	2,250	--
Cle Elum	19%	10,034	1,008
Ellensburg	45%	23,764	2,387
Unincorporated	18.5%	9,771	982
Reserve	8.74%		
Total	100%		
Note: The above figures were based upon the 2002 high population projection estimate provided by Office of Financial Management.			

Table 3.4-1 above indicates that 18.5% of the projected population is expected to reside in the County outside established Urban Growth Boundaries. With the reserve 982 persons added to the 9,771 population projected to reside in “rural” Kittitas County, population is projected to be 10,753 by 2025. Population projections were updated by OFM in 2012, and based, upon the above allocation formula, rural Kittitas can be projected to equal 11,578 when using the 2012 projections.

Table 3.4-2 below shows the population for the County obtained from the US Census and estimates from OFM over the past decade. The table provides U.S. Census count population in 2000 and 2010 for each jurisdiction within Kittitas County and for the County as a whole. The table also provides a population estimated for 2011. OFM estimates are expected to be updated by April 1, 2012.

Table 3.4-2 Population Information for Kittitas County

Population	US Census 2000	US Census 2010	% Change	OFM Estimate 2011
Unincorporated	13,614	18,063	32.7	18,315
Incorporated	19,748	22,852	15.7	22,985
Cle Elum	1,755	1,872	6.7	1,875
Ellensburg	15,414	18,174	17.9	18,250
Kittitas	1,105	1,381	25.0	1,430
Roslyn	1,017	893	-12.2	895
South Cle Elum	457	532	16.4	535
Total	33,362	40,915	22.6	41,300

As shown in **Table 3.4-2**, the total County’s population increased by 7,553 people or 22.6% between 2000 and 2010. Unincorporated Kittitas County received 69.8% of this increase. Incorporated areas expanded by 15.7% between 2000 and 2010. Growth in Kittitas County’s Unincorporated area grew by 32.7%. The Table shows that much of the increase in the County’s population has been in the rural area of the County.

3.4.2 Population Distribution

The pattern of Kittitas County’s population distribution has not changed significantly over the past decade even though the population has increased significantly over the same period. The maps on the following pages illustrate the distribution of population within the County in 2000 and in 2010. The information was extracted from counts provided by the U.S. Census in both years by census tracts. **Map 3.4-1** illustrates the 2000 concentration of population around the two main jurisdictions of Cle Elum and Ellensburg. Pockets of higher intensity population also existed along the I-90 freeway along Easton and City of Kittitas. Areas in the northern portion of the County and along the Yakima River in the southern portion of the County toward the City of Yakima also showed some concentration of population in 2000.

Map 3.4-2 displays the 2010 population distribution throughout the County and the shift of population within the County over the decade is not significant. There are indications indicated from the Map that population has shifted toward concentrated population areas. The population in the outer areas of the County in 2010 is lower when compared to the 2000 map. An increase is noted at the most southern area of the County and near the Snoqualmie area. The Vantage area also indicates some population increase when looking at the map. Probably the largest increase in population can be seen in the areas within the West Ellensburg and Thorp subareas. Some increased population concentrations are also seen in the Nelson Siding/Westside subarea. With the increase in these subareas, it will be important to determine if the “rural character” has been protected.

3.4.3 Transient Population Characteristics

When evaluating population increase in relation to the area needed to accommodate such population increase, it is important to estimate the transient population, or the population that is seasonal within the area. Unfortunately, there is no accurate data providing transient population trends. The transient population often is “moving” at time of census and is not counted accurately in areas. Given the existence of the strong agricultural economy, the recreation activities, and of the Central Washington University population within Kittitas County, it is important to make some estimate of this information to project types of housing and service needs for the County’s existing and future population.

Below is a table that shows some migration in the County in relation to the whole State. As seen from the table, the State’s overall migration population between 2000 and 2010 is quite significant at 54.2%. However, 84% of the increase in population in Kittitas County in the past decade was from migration, significantly higher than the State. This could be as a result of permanent residential migration or it could result from a transient population.

Table 3.4-2a Population and Elements of Population Change Between 2000 and 2010

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Nat. Increase</u>	<u>Migration</u>
State	5,894,143	6,724,540	14.09	840,630	460,369	380,261	450,136
Kittitas	33,362	40,915	22.64	3,733	2,527	1,206	6,347

Housing changes can often provide a measure of the approximate number and location of this population. Accepting the assumption that transient populations reside in certain types of housing, housing information can provide valuable information to estimate location and shifts of this group. Following are a number of tables which illustrate housing changes by housing type that have occurred over the past decade.

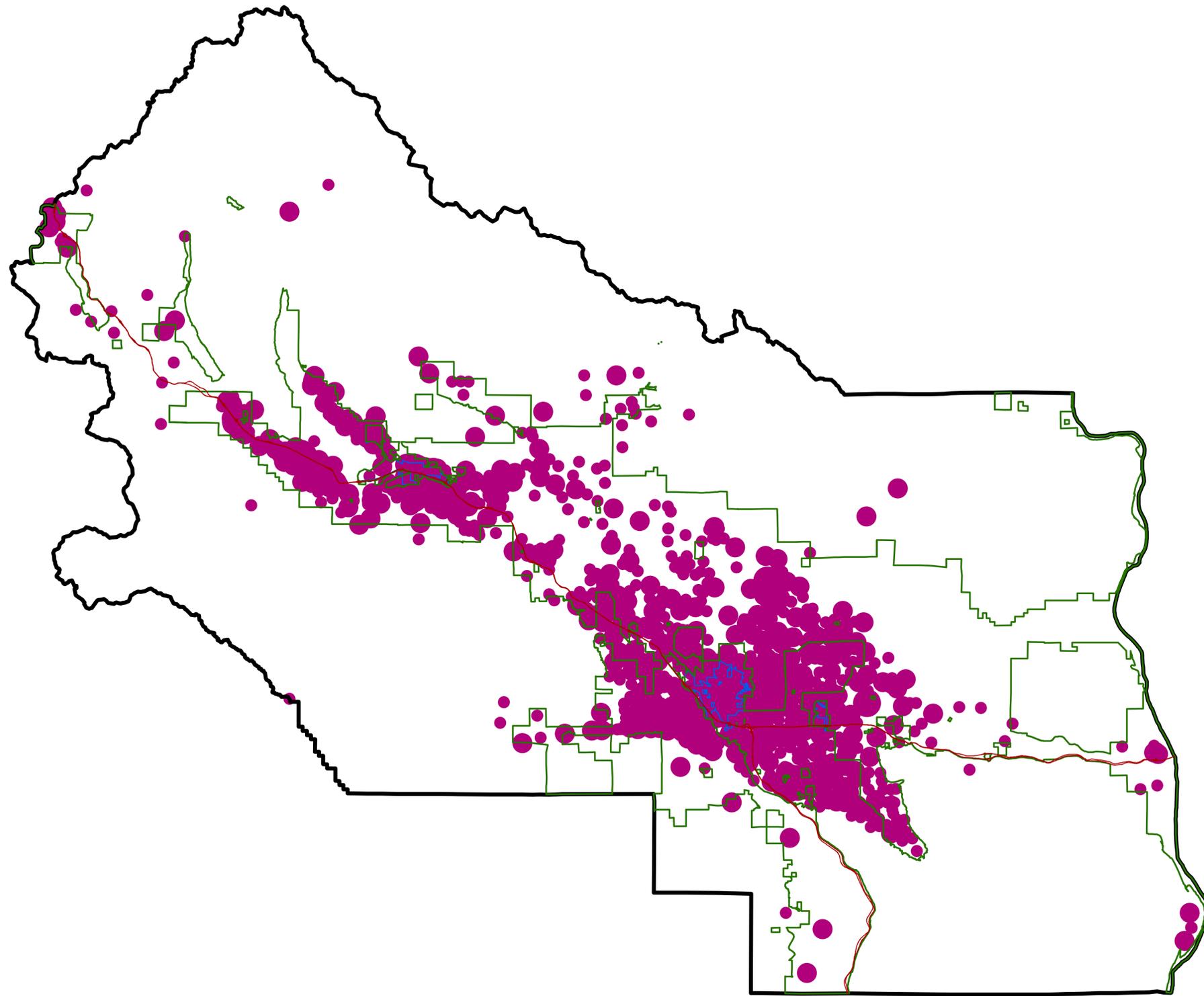
Transient populations often search for less expensive housing accommodations which suggests examining changes in multiple housing certain housing structure. The table below shows the percent change in various types of housing by jurisdiction.

Table 3.4-2b Percent Housing Change between 2000 and 2010 by Type and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Total	Single Family	2+ Unit	M.H./ Special
State	16.9	15.9	20.1	14.9
Kittitas County	22.7	28.7	9.7	19.0
Unincorporated	40.4	42.4	58.7	29.4
Incorporated	8.2	12.6	5.0	-6.4
Cle Elum	9.8	8.3	20.4	4.9
Ellensburg	8.0	15.8	3.9	-25.9
Roslyn	1.4	1.8	0.0	-4.2
City of Kittitas	7.8	5.7	8.5	10.9
South Cle Elum	26.7	22.1	300.0	12.8

Percentage increases in the smaller incorporated areas are not significant even though some are quite high. The 300% increase in 2+ unit structure increase in South Cle Elum only represents an increase by 15 multi-family structures. Given the student population, it is somewhat surprising that Ellensburg did not have a higher increase in multi-family housing. The decrease in mobile home units within the City is most likely the result of development regulations more strict than other areas.

The Table shows that multiple housing and Mobile Home/Special Housing growth is significant over the decade in Unincorporated, or rural, Kittitas County when compared with other areas in the County. Accepting the assumption that transient populations are greatest with higher density housing, one can only conclude that most transient population is occurring in the unincorporated areas of Kittitas County.



Legend

-  Rural Land Use Boundary
-  Cities
-  Interstate Highways
-  1 - 10
-  11 - 100
-  101 - 1039

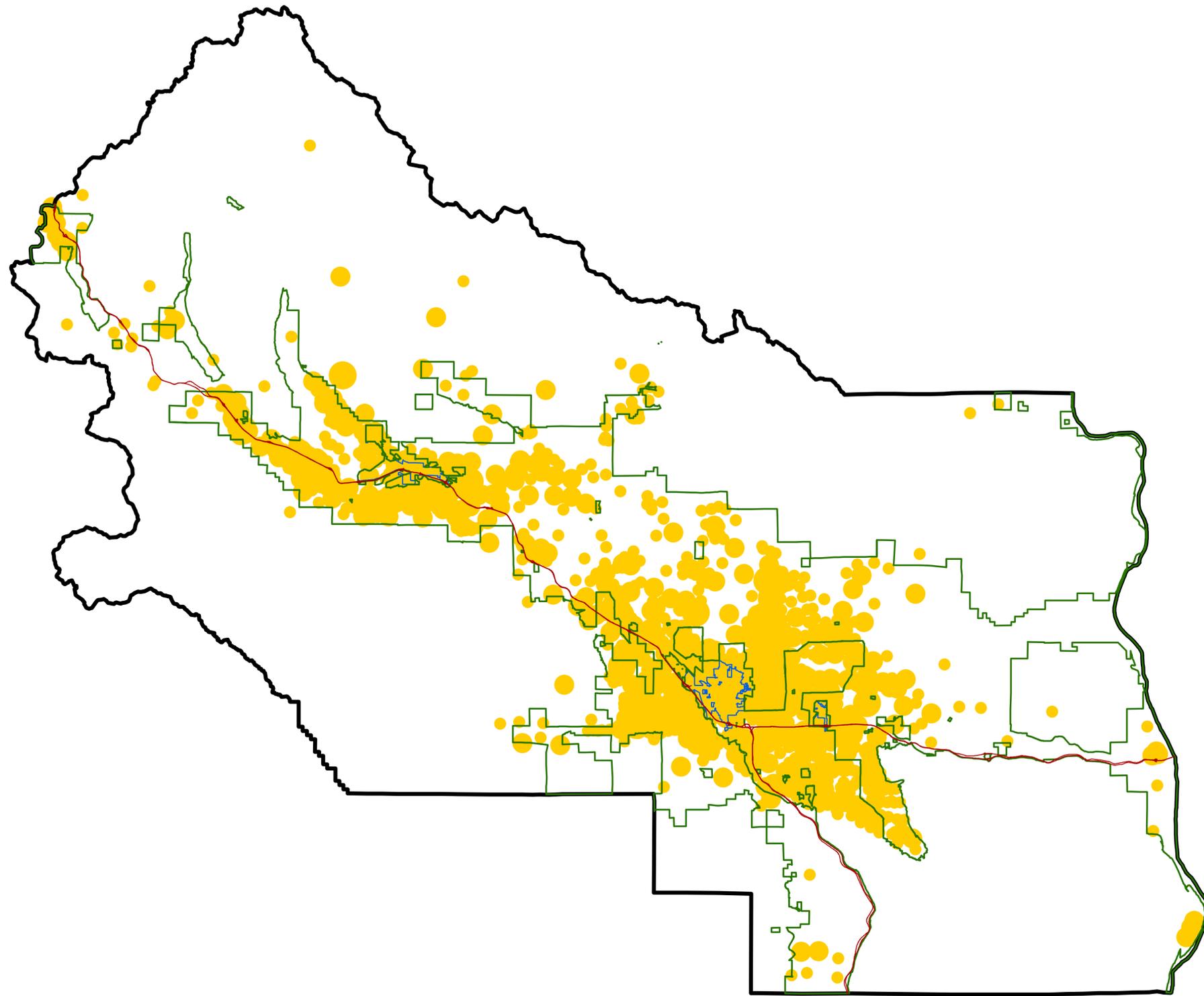


April 2012

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Map 3.4-1

Population in 2000 by Census Block



Legend

-  Rural Land Use Boundary
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-  11 - 100
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Map 3.4-2

Population in 2010 by Census Block