Kittitas County is a region with a distinct sense of place based on the quality and diversity of our natural and built environment, valued recreational opportunities, and commitment to high quality of life.

Kittitas County addresses challenges of future growth in a direct manner. Coordinated planning and suitable density patterns ensure that rural areas, natural areas, and working lands are sustained for the benefit of current and future generations. An important factor in the County’s growth fostering a diverse economy with a variety of employment opportunities achieved through a balance of commercial, industrial and manufacturing areas located and sized to ensure opportunities for rural-based employment. The diverse housing needs of current and future residents is met by providing a range of housing types to ensure adequate and affordable housing options.

Kittitas County enhances its regional character by preserving the diversity of existing resource tourism and promoting future opportunities. The County protects, conserves, and responsibly manages natural resources through education, coordination, facilitation, and long term planning.

The cornerstone of the County’s approach to planning is conducting activities in a manner that encourages citizen involvement, enhances public trust, and promotes mutual understanding.

Draft Vision Statement—Kittitas County in 2037

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Planning for Regional Population Growth

The County and the Kittitas County Conference of Governments (COG) are reviewing county-wide population growth projections developed by the State Office of Financial Management (OFM). Once a population projection scenario is selected, the growth will be allocated to the Urban Growth Areas (UGAs), including all local jurisdictions, and the remaining rural county lands.

The allocated population will provide an important basis for changes to each jurisdiction’s Comprehensive Plan in the 20 year timeframe. Each jurisdiction is required to accommodate their allocated population by reviewing (and sometimes revising) their Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations so that the jurisdiction has the capacity for the allocated population growth in the 20 year planning timeframe.

Planning for population growth is a regional effort requiring coordination amongst all jurisdictions in Kittitas County.

Coordination is accomplished through the joint effort of developing population allocations and updating County-wide Planning Policies. The policies are scheduled for public hearing with the Board of County Commissioners on June 7, 2016.