

WHATCOM COUNTY  
Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384  
360-738-2525 Fax



J.E. "Sam" Ryan  
Director

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)  
<sup>1</sup>ADDENDUM

File: Second Addendum to SEP2009-00030

**Project Description:** This is a non-project action to amend Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations to control and contain growth in rural areas and protect rural character, in compliance with RCW 36.70A.070(5). This action is required by a Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board compliance order (WWGMHB #05-2-0013, September 20, 2005 and WWGMHB #11-2-0010c, January 9, 2012 and January 4, 2013). The updated proposal is to amend actions taken previously to control and contain growth in rural areas (Whatcom County Ordinance 2011-013). The proposed action is expected to include amendments to the Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan, zoning code, and official zoning map, as described in the attached memorandum (dated March 6, 2012 and March 11, 2013) to the updated environmental checklist (dated March 7, 2013). Additional information can be found at <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/plan/long/projects/lamird/proposed.jsp>.

**Proponent:** Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

**Location:** Unincorporated Whatcom County

**Lead Agency:** Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

**Zoning:** N/A      **Comp Plan:** N/A

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that with proper mitigation, no significant adverse environmental impacts are likely. Pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c), an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required. This decision was made following review of a completed SEPA environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

There is no comment period for this addendum to the DNS.

**Responsible Official:** Tyler R. Schroeder  
**Title:** Planning Manager  
**Telephone:** 360.676.6907  
**Address:** 5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226

**Date of Issuance:** April 12, 2013

**Signature:** 

An aggrieved agency or person may appeal this determination to the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner. Application for appeal must be filed on a form provided by and submitted to the Whatcom County Land Use Division located at 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226, during the ten days following the date of issuance, concluding April 22, 2013. You should be prepared to make a specific factual objection. Contact Whatcom County Planning and Development Services for information about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

<sup>1</sup> Whatcom County PDS is using the addendum process to the original DNS, dated May 1, 2009 and addendum dated April 27, 2012, as outlined in WAC 197-11-600(4)(c) and 625. This addendum is being circulated to the distribution list. The addendum process is being utilize due to the modifications to the original proposal, and it has been determined that those changes should not result in any new significant adverse impact. Changes to the original DNS are shown as underlines.

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SEPA Distribution List  
SEP2009-00030  
Date of Issuance: April 12, 2013

Please review this determination. If you have further comments, questions or would like a copy of the SEPA checklist, phone the responsible official at (360) 676-6907. Please submit your response by the comment date noted on the attached notice of determination.

SEPA Unit, WA State Department of Ecology, Olympia via email  
sepaunit@ecy.wa.gov

WA State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation  
WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
WA State Department of Natural Resources  
WA State Department of Licensing - Real Estate Division  
SEPA Unit, WA State Department of Transportation  
WA State Department of Health & Social Health Services  
WA State Department of Revenue Business License  
Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board  
Parks & Recreational Commission Environmental Review Section  
Port of Bellingham  
Lummi Nation  
Attn: Natural Resources Department  
Attn: Cultural Resources Department

Nooksack Indian Tribe  
Attn: Natural Resources Department  
Attn: Cultural Resources Department

Point Roberts Design Review Committee  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District - Regulatory Branch  
Soil Conservation Service  
Washington State Patrol  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Whatcom Council of Governments  
Whatcom Transit Authority  
WA State of Attorney General Regional Services Division

Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
Northwest Clean Air Agency  
Whatcom Conservation District

Whatcom County Libraries:

Blaine Branch  
Deming Branch  
Everson Branch  
Ferndale Branch  
Lynden Branch  
Lummi Island Branch  
Maple Falls Branch  
Point Roberts Branch  
Sumas Branch

School Districts:

Bellingham District #501  
Blaine District #503  
Ferndale District #502  
Lynden District #504  
Meridian District #505  
Mt. Baker District #507  
Nooksack District #506

Acme Water District #18  
Bell Bay Jackson Water Association  
Birch Bay Water & Sewer District #8  
Custer Water Association  
Deming Water Association  
Evergreen Water-Sewer Dist. #19  
Glacier Water District  
Glenhaven Lakes Club  
Guide Meridian Water Association  
Lake Terrill Water Association  
Lummi Water & Sewer District  
Meadowbrook Water Association  
Mt. Baker Water Association  
Northwest Water Association  
Nooksack Valley Water Association  
Old Settlers Water Association  
Orchard Water Association  
Point Roberts Water District #4  
Pole Road Water Association  
Public Utility District #1  
Sandy Point Improvement District  
Shookum Chuck Water Association  
City of Bellingham – Water Division

City of Blaine Water District  
City of Ferndale Water District  
City of Lynden Water Department  
Whatcom County Water District #2  
Whatcom County Water District #7  
Whatcom County Water District #13  
Whatcom County Water District #10  
Whatcom County Water District #12  
Fire District #1  
Fire District #2  
Fire District #4  
Fire District #5  
Fire District #6  
Fire District #7  
Fire District #8  
Fire District #9  
Fire District #10  
Fire District #11  
Fire District #14  
Fire District # 16  
Fire District #17  
Fire District #18  
Fire District #19  
Fire District #21  
City of Bellingham Fire Department  
City of Lynden Fire Department  
City of Bellingham Public Works Engineering  
City of Bellingham  
City of Blaine  
City of Ferndale  
City of Lynden  
City of Nooksack  
City of Everson  
City of Sumas

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SEP2009-  
00030

REVIEWED  
TPS 3/21/13

## SEPA Environmental Checklist

### Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### Use of Checklist for Non-Project Proposals:

Complete this checklist for non-project proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." in addition, complete the supplemental sheet for non-project actions (part C).

For non-project actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

## A Background

1 Name of proposed project, if applicable:  
**Rural Element Update**

2 Name of applicant:  
**Whatcom County**

Applicant phone number:  
**360.676.6907**

Applicant address:  
**5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226**

3 Contact name:  
**Gary Davis**

Contact phone number:  
**360.676.6907**

Contact address:  
**5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226**

4 Date checklist prepared:  
**March 7, 2013**

5 Agency requesting checklist:  
**Whatcom County Planning and Development Services**

6 Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):  
**Planning Commission consideration March 2013, County  
Council consideration April-June 2013.**

7 Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal?  
**Further amendments may be made as part of the 2016  
Comprehensive Plan update.**

8 List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:  
**EIS for 2004 Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, EIS for  
Whatcom County 10-year Urban Growth Area Review (2009);  
SEPA checklist and DNS for original Rural Element proposal,  
May 1, 2009.**

- 9 Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal?  
Yes  No   
If yes, explain.

- 10 List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**The proposed amendment requires review by the Whatcom County Planning Commission and adoption by the Whatcom County Council.**

- 11 Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. *There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page.* (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**This is a non-project action to amend Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan, Whatcom County Code (WCC) and official zoning maps to control and contain growth in rural areas and protect rural character, in compliance with RCW 36.70A.070(5). This action is required by a Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board compliance order (WWGMHB #11-2-0010c, January 4, 2013) to amend actions taken previously to control and contain growth in rural areas (Whatcom County Ordinance 2011-013). The proposed action is expected to include amendments to Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan, zoning code, and official zoning map, as described in the attached report and per the draft posted online at <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/pds/plan/lr/projects/lamirds/lamirds.jsp>.**

**The proposed action includes the following amendments:**

- 1. Amend the Comprehensive Plan and WCC Title 20 to restrict rezones from R10A to districts that allow higher density, in order to maintain a variety of rural densities;**
- 2. Amend WCC Title 20 to revise rural lot clustering requirements, in order to better protect rural character;**
- 3. Amend the Comprehensive Plan and official zoning maps to revise the Fort Bellingham/Marietta, North Bellingham, and Welcome Rural Neighborhood designation boundaries, in order to better reflect the existing small-lot development patterns in these areas;**

4. Amend the Comprehensive Plan and official zoning maps to revise the Smith & Guide Meridian and Birch Bay-Lynden & Valley View Rural Communities (Type I LAMIRDS), in order to conform to the GMA requirements for LAMIRD boundaries; and
5. Amend WCC Title 20 and 24 to revise provisions for permitting water lines in rural areas, in order to comply with GMA requirements for extension of utilities.

This checklist is an addendum to the one written in 2009 for the project that resulted in Ordinance 2011-013 (SEP 2009-00030, DNS issued May 1, 2009) and the addendum written in 2012 for the amendments that resulted in Ordinance 2012-032 (~~SEP 2012-0427~~).

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DATE 4-27-12 TFS  
3/27/13

- 12 Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

**The affected geographic area includes all the rural areas of Whatcom County (areas not designated for urban or resource uses).**

## B Environmental Elements

### 1 Earth

- a. General description of the site:

- Flat
- Rolling
- Hilly
- Steep Slopes
- Mountainous
- X Other

**Topography varies throughout the affected geographic area.**

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**Slopes vary throughout the affected geographic area. Some slopes exceeding 35% exist within the affected area, and may be identified as one of the environmental constraints that restrict development, potentially affecting whether the area is designated as a LAMIRD.**



- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

**Soils vary throughout the affected geographic area. Some unstable soils exist within the affected area, and may be identified as one of the environmental constraints that restrict development, potentially affecting whether the area is designated as a LAMIRD.**

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity?

**See (c) above.**

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed.

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel. Any filling or grading will be required to comply with any Whatcom County standards.**

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel. All adopted erosion control measures would apply to any development that is a result of this non-project action.**

## 2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, or industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel. Any emissions would be the normal emissions that are typically a result of residential, commercial, or industrial uses. This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in less vehicular emissions than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

**None**

3. Water

a. Surface:

- (1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)?

**There are various water bodies within the affected geographic area. Potential impacts to water bodies may be identified as one of the environmental constraints that restrict development, potentially affecting whether the area is designated as a LAMIRD.**

- (2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected.

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain?

**Portions of the affected geographic area are within the 100 year floodplain. Location within the floodplain may be identified as one of the environmental constraints that restrict development, potentially affecting whether the area is designated as a LAMIRD.**

- (6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

b. Ground

Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in fewer new wells than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

- (1) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals.....; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in fewer new septic systems than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

c. Water runoff (including storm water):

- (1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known).

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in construction of less impervious surface than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

- (2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in smaller potential for contamination than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

**None**

#### 4 Plants

a. Check types of vegetation found on the site:

- Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- Shrubs
- Grass
- Pasture
- Crop or grain

- Wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- Water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- Other types of vegetation

**Types of vegetation vary throughout the affected geographic area.**

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in less removal/alteration of vegetation than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**None.**

## 5. Animals

a. Check any birds and animals, which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

### Birds:

- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawk,  | <input type="checkbox"/> Heron,     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle, | <input type="checkbox"/> Songbirds; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |                                     |

### Mammals:

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deer,  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bear,   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elk,   | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |                                  |

### Fish:

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bass,      | <input type="checkbox"/> Salmon,  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trout,     | <input type="checkbox"/> Herring, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish; | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:   |

**Various birds and animals exist within the affected geographic area. This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in less interference with rural wildlife habitat than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**The Bald Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Red Legged Frog, Tailed Frog, and Peregrine Falcons are threatened or endangered species that are known to be on or near some of the affected areas.**

- c. Is the site part of a migration route?

**No.**

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

**None.**

## 6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

**No specific energy conservation features are included. This proposal would reduce the potential for development in rural areas, likely resulting in more efficient use of energy than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

## 7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

b. Noise

- (1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- (3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**Not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

8 Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

**Land uses in the affected geographic area vary and include agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial uses.**

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture?

**Agriculture is one of the existing and permitted uses within the affected rural areas.**

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Structures vary within the affected rural areas, depending on land use.**

- d. Will any structures be demolished?

**The proposal would not require demolition of any structures.**

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**Zoning classifications within the affected rural areas vary, and include Rural (2 acre, 5 acre and 10 acre minimum lot size), Rural Residential (5 acre, 2 acre, minimum lot size), and Rural General Commercial (RGC).**

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**Comprehensive Plan designations within the affected geographic area vary, and include Rural, Rural Community, and Rural Business.**

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

**There are various SMP designations within the affected geographic area. Potential impacts to water bodies may be identified as one of the environmental constraints that restrict development, potentially affecting whether the area is designated as a LAMIRD.**

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area?

**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

**The number of residents and jobs within the affected geographic area is unknown at this time. Potential residents and jobs will be dependent on where LAMIRD boundaries are established and how much potential infill is permitted within those boundaries.**

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

**No displacement is anticipated as a result of this proposal.**

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

**None.**

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**Whatcom County Planning Commission and County Council will evaluate the proposal's consistency with other land use plans, including existing subarea plans.**

## 9 Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**The number of dwelling units within the affected geographic area is unknown at this time. Potential dwelling units will be dependent on where LAMIRD boundaries are established and how much potential infill is permitted within those boundaries. The proposal will result in fewer dwelling units in the affected geographic area than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

**No elimination of dwelling units is anticipated as a result of this proposal.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:  
**None.**

## 10 Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?  
**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?  
**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:  
**The proposal will include restrictions on rezones that would increase rural densities, and revisions to lot clustering provisions, with the intent of protecting rural character.**

## 11 Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?  
**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?  
**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?  
**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel.**
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:  
**None.**

## 12 Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?  
**No designated recreation areas exist in the affected geographic area.**



- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

**No.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**None.**

### 13 Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

**No.**

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

**Landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance within or adjacent to the affected geographic area include: Fort Bellingham, which includes recorded an archaeological site and contour(s) of significance; Birch Bay-Lynden and I-5 area, which includes contour(s) of significance.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

**None.**

### 14 Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

**The affected geographic areas are served by multiple state highways and county roads.**

- b. Is site currently served by public transit?

**Areas included in LAMIRD designation are typically located at existing crossroads or on a county road or state highway and are served by regional transit routes.**

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**This will vary from site to site and is not applicable because this is a non project action which does not apply to a specific parcel. No reduction in parking spaces is anticipated as a result of the proposal.**

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways?

**The proposal does not require new roads or streets.**

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of)

- Water,  
 Rail, or  
 Air transportation?

If so, generally describe.

**The Ft. Bellingham/Marietta area is adjacent to an active railway corridor and the Bellingham International Airport.**

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

**The proposal will result in fewer dwelling units in the affected geographic area than if existing development patterns were to continue, generating fewer vehicular trips and vehicle miles traveled in the rural areas than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**None.**

#### 15 Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)?

**The proposal will result in fewer dwelling units in the affected geographic area than if existing development patterns were to continue, generating less demand for public services in the rural areas than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**Efficient provision of public services may be identified as one of the criteria for inclusion within a LAMIRD boundary, potentially affecting whether the area would retain its current zoning and continue existing development patterns.**

#### 16 Utilities

a. Check utilities currently available at the site:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electricity,   | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural gas,    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water,         | <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse service, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone,     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary sewer, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Septic system, | <input type="checkbox"/> Other.          |

**Private utilities such as electricity, refuse, and telephone, are typically provided throughout the affected geographic area. Portions of the affected area are served by public water utilities.**

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**See #15 above.**

## SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted: 3/7/13

## C Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions

*(Do not use this sheet for project actions)*

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment. When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

- 1 How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in some rural areas, likely resulting in reduced potential for water, air, or noise pollution than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**Measures to limit the proportion of impervious surface on lots are part of this proposal. Any development is subject to Whatcom County's development regulations, including the County's Critical Area Ordinance and Shoreline Management Program.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

**This proposal includes changes to residential densities in some areas, and to the proportion of open space on lots in rural areas, which affect the open space available to wildlife.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

**This proposal includes reduced residential densities in some areas, and measures to increase the proportion of open space on lots in rural areas, likely resulting in reduced potential impacts to plants, animals, fish, or marine life than if existing development patterns were to continue. Any development is subject to Whatcom County's development regulations, including the County's Critical Area Ordinance and Shoreline Management Program.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in some rural areas, likely resulting in reduced consumption of energy or natural resources than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**There are no specific measures as part of this proposal.**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in some rural areas, likely resulting in reduced potential impacts to environmentally sensitive areas than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

**There are no specific measures as part of this proposal. Any development is subject to Whatcom County's development regulations, including the County's Critical Area Ordinance and Shoreline Management Program.**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

**The proposal would amend existing land use plans by minimizing and containing more intensive uses and densities within designated LAMIRD boundaries, and limiting**

**development outside those boundaries to uses and densities consistent with those of 1990. The proposal will result in reducing the proportion of Whatcom County's growth occurring in rural areas, shifting that growth to Urban Growth Areas and infill within LAMIRDs, where the growth can be more efficiently served by public facilities.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

**Measures to reduce land use impacts include amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan, zoning map and zoning code to change uses and densities allowed in rural areas. Any potential impacts created by individual developments are regulated by SEPA and Whatcom County's development regulations, including the County's Critical Area Ordinance and Shoreline Management Program.**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

**This proposal would reduce the potential for development in some rural areas, likely resulting in reduced demands on transportation and public services and utilities than if existing development patterns were to continue.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

**Measures to reduce impacts to transportation facilities and public services and utilities include amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan, zoning map and zoning code to change uses and densities allowed in rural areas. These amendments would shift growth from rural areas to UGAs and LAMIRDs, where these services can be provided more efficiently. Any development is subject to Whatcom County's development regulations, including the County's Transportation Concurrency Management Program.**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**There are no known conflicts with local, state, or federal laws. The purpose of the proposal is to comply with RWC 36.70A.070(5), which requires counties to include a rural element in their comprehensive plans that control and contain rural growth and protect rural character.**

**WHATCOM COUNTY**  
Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, WA 98226-9097  
360-676-6907, TTY 800-833-6384  
360-738-2525 Fax



**J.E. "Sam" Ryan**  
Director

**SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)  
Legal Notice**

To be published one time only on: **Friday, April 12, 2013**

CHARGE TO: Whatcom County Planning & Development Services  
5280 Northwest Drive  
Bellingham, Washington 98226  
**Acct #048867**

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**WHATCOM COUNTY GIVES PUBLIC NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING SEPA  
THRESHOLD DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (DNS) HAS BEEN  
ISSUED TODAY SUBJECT TO THE 14 DAY COMMENT PERIOD  
CONCLUDING ON, April 26, 2013.**

**File:** SEP2009-00030

**Project Description:** Second Addendum to SEP2009-00030

This is a non-project action to amend Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan and development regulations to control and contain growth in rural areas and protect rural character, in compliance with RCW 36.70A.070(5). This action is required by a Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board compliance order (WWGMHB #05-2-0013, September 20, 2005 and WWGMHB #11-2-0010c, January 9, 2012 and January 4, 2013). The updated proposal is to amend actions taken previously to control and contain growth in rural areas (Whatcom County Ordinance 2011-013). The proposed action is expected to include amendments to the Whatcom County's Comprehensive Plan, zoning code, and official zoning map, as described in the attached memorandum (dated March 6, 2012 and March 11, 2013) to the updated environmental checklist (dated March 7, 2013). Additional information can be found at <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/plan/long/projects/lamird/proposed.jsp>.

**Proponent:** Whatcom County Planning and Development Services

**Address and Parcel #:** Unincorporated Whatcom County

**Lead Agency:** Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

**Zoning:** N/A      **Comp Plan:** N/A      **Shoreline Jurisdiction:** N/A

**ANY PERSON OR AGENCY MAY APPEAL THE COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE WITH WAC 197-11 BY FILING AN APPEAL WITH THE WHATCOM COUNTY CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION LOCATED AT 5280 NORTHWEST DRIVE, BELLINGHAM, WA 98226. APPEALS MUST BE MADE WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE END OF THE COMMENT PERIOD.**