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A Publication of the American Planning Association Washington Chapter

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Learn from Smart Growth America's Ilana Preuss and award-winning planner and landscape architect Robert Gibbs at this year's event in Spokane.

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Share your knowledge of planning in a session at next April's big event in Seattle.

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Study explores Washington's Hispanic Population and Latino

Placemaking for Central Washington

A new paper describes ongoing research and engagement with planners as well as significant demographic trends with respect to the Hispanic population in Washington counties.

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Planning for Whole Communities Toolkit offers tips for creating livable cities and regions

This new resource from the Puget Sound Regional Council, divided into 25 guides, helps local jurisdictions to promote health, equity, and sustainability in their local planning efforts.

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Department of Commerce provides updates to planners.

Read the Department of Commerce update for the latest information.



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; Learn about greening your main street, a new tool to simulate transit routes, a state program that supports brownfield redevelopment, and why hiking is getting more expensive in Washington and Oregon.;

The Greening of Main Street

|insight.mrsc.org/2014/06/16/the-greening-of-main-street; Carol Tobin / MRSC Insight (June 16, 2014); There is increasing evidence that green developments on main streets and in downtowns have a positive influence on urban vitality. Green developments include fitting new and older development together at a human scale, making room for the new and local economy, and making it easier to reuse smaller buildings. Many of the concepts and principles essential to historic main streets and downtowns can also be applied in suburban and developing downtowns without historic buildings.;

A Walk in the Woods Just Got Expensive in Washington and Oregon

|planetizen.com/node/69467; James Brasuell / Planetizen (June 18, 2014); Weyerhaeuser, the largest private owner of timberland in Washington and Oregon, is now requiring seasonal access permits to hunters, horse riders, hikers, and other recreation seekers. The permit fees range from \$75 to \$550 depending on the area. This "pay-to-play" and "pay-to-hunt" trend is being met with strong opposition from residents. It is unclear what recourse jurisdictions have to stop the fees.;

Design Your Own Fantasy Bus System for Real-World Cities

|citylab.com/commute/2014/06/design-your-own-fantasy-bus-system-for-real-world-cities/373166; Jenny Xie / The Atlantic CityLab (June 20, 2014) ;TransitMix blurs the lines between video games and transportation planning. The program is a new, free sketching tool that allows users—planners and amateur enthusiasts alike—to quickly design routes and share with the public. By changing variables like headway and peak hours, users get outputs including buses needed to meet peak hour demand and an estimate of cost per line.;

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August President's Message

By Ivan Miller, AICP

OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE COMMUNITIES IN CENTRAL WASHINGTON

Planning is about the longer view but sometimes local circumstances can change everything in a heartbeat. While we are relieved that so few people got hurt or killed, the pictures and stories from the fires in Carlton, Pateros, the Methow Valley, and surrounding areas are hard to witness.

Our thoughts go out to these families and communities, as well as to planners that work with them. And we note that chapter programs such as the Community Planning Assistance Team and our partnership with PAW and the Department of Commerce on the Planning Short Course and Planners Forums may be opportunities to support these communities when the time is right for them.



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READERS, TIME TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE 2015 CONFERENCE

On a lighter note, some of my out-of-town family visited this month and I got to be their tour guide. Playing tour guide has been on top of my mind recently given the work the chapter is doing for the 2015 National Planning Conference on orientation tours, mobile workshops, local sessions, receptions, etc. It's been challenging for us to decide from amongst the best places to go in this region; so many great places, so little time!

Today, I'm turning to you, our readers, to share your ideas for places to visit for the 6,000 planners coming next April. I am hoping for some not-so-obvious hidden gems, especially ones that have a great planning story that goes with the location.

And, if you're so inspired, how about you share your ideas on keynote speakers? While the chapter does not select speakers for the national conference, we can make recommendations and we can keep the ideas for future state conferences. Have you seen any terrific, inspiring, insightful speakers lately? Comments on both are due by August 15 please.

By the way, my family settled on visiting Paradise Lodge at Mt. Rainier, Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island, and Marination in West Seattle. There are great planning stories in all of these locations. i

2014 CONFERENCE / \$50 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP / SPOKANE SHORT Course 2.0

I mentioned these in the last newsletter, but now is the time to sign up! Register for the 2014 conference. Register to become a new member of the chapter. Get ready to register your planning commission to come to the new and improved short course that we are rolling out on the day before the Spokane conference with PAW and Commerce-details to follow.

WASLA / APA JOINT HAPPY HOUR

The chapter held its first joint happy hour with the Washington Chapter of the Association of Landscape Architects on July 24. Coordination with allied professions is great for our membership organization—more opportunities to network, socialize and learn. (note: I'm writing this article a week before the event, but I will go out on a limb and say that it was a great event and everyone had a great time; thanks to GGLO for sponsoring this joint event!)



Ivan Miller, AICP
President, APA Washington
ivanmillerseattle@hotmail.com

In the stirring documentary, "The National Park: America's Best Idea", producer Ken Burn and writer Dayton Duncan discuss many amazing planning stories behind the parks. They note, from what we would today call an equity perspective, that by virtue of being an American, regardless of background—rich and poor; famous and unknown; soldiers and scientists; natives and newcomers; idealists, artists and entrepreneurs—you are the owner of some of the best seafront property, magnificent waterfalls, and stunning views of mountains and gorgeous canyons. Parks are about democracy and freedom, which of course is the same thing as planning.

Bloedel Reserve is also a *planning* story—in this case, master planning of a large wooded site and former farm. The story reaches deep into landscape architecture, renewable resources, and sustainability. Founder Prentice Bloedel's quote "Nature can live without man, but man cannot live without nature" echoes the core ethic of the Growth Management Act—that the "land speaks first."

This was the deliberate decision by the drafters of GMA that the first planning actions be the identification and conservation of resource lands and protection of critical areas in all 39 counties in the state. Not to open a major debate on the theoretical highs and lows (and don't even get me started on implementation) of the GMA in a footnote, but I'd suggest this is one of the most progressive ideas in our state's planning statutes.

It's a stretch to say that **Marination Ma Kai** is a planning story although it is a restaurant on a shoreline near the King County Water Taxi. Shorelines have been a huge part of many of our members' work over the past few years, so it's close enough. I'll conclude with these five words: Loco Moco Rice and Gravy.

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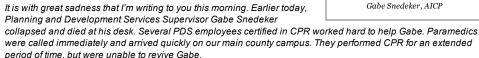
Sad news regarding Gabe Snedeker

By Ivan Miller, AICP

We received the terribly sad news yesterday (7/30) that Gabe Snedeker, a long-time co-chair of the chapter's Scholarship Committee, passed away from a heart attack.

For those who knew him, you'll agree that Gabe was a great contributor to APA and to his community. He was a smart and fun guy with huge potential—this is big loss for his family and for the planning community.

Below is a press release posted yesterday from Snohomish County Executive John Lovick.



Gabe was 42 years old and leaves behind a wife and three-year-old child. We are reaching out to his family during this difficult time, and I hope you'll keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Those of you who know Gabe know what a wonderful person he was, full of joy and kindness and very athletic. His passing is a terrible loss for all of us. His PDS coworkers are especially grieving right now, and we're providing chaplains for them. Out of respect for PDS employees, PDS offices will be closed today. We expect PDS services to resume tomorrow ...

My path crossed with Gabe's over the years, primarily at the Board but also at work and related to the UW. After hearing the news about his passing, I searched my Hotmail account for emails from him. The last exchange we had related to strengthening the chapter's scholarship work. His email focused on ensuring we considered financial need when giving out scholarships and he included a lot of good ideas for inspiring potential donors. His suggestions used words such as welcome, love, pride, teams, embrace, competition... and fun; these are good words to describe Gabe as a person.

The chapter will post additional information on any events or services the family wishes to share. If planners wish to post comments, please send them to office@washington-apa.org and we'll post them to the website.





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APA Washington Board recommends amendments to chapter bylaws

At its June 20 meeting, the APA Washington Board of Directors acted to recommend several amendments to the chapter bylaws. These changes will be brought to the membership for a vote at the general meeting that will be held in conjunction with the Chapter conference in Spokane October 16 and 17.

The amendments will:

- Allow the Chapter to participate in consolidated elections mandated by APA National. Consolidated elections—with one ballot containing national, chapter and section elections—are scheduled to begin in 2015. The proposed amendments change the terms of office for elected officers and the timing of elections. Currently terms run from July 1st to June 30th. With consolidated elections, Chapter officers will serve from November 1st to October 31st.
- Address technical changes to Chapter officer descriptions to be consistent with the model bylaw guidelines provided by National APA and to be more consistent with Washington State laws regarding non-profit organizations.
- Make minor changes to terms and technical procedures to reflect the current names and processes being used.

Chapter members should review the <u>proposed amendments</u> prior to the meeting in Spokane and may make comments or suggestions to Laura Hudson, Vice President. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Laura at 360-735-7911 or <u>llh2747@yahoo.com</u>.



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APA Washington announces two keynote speakers for annual conference



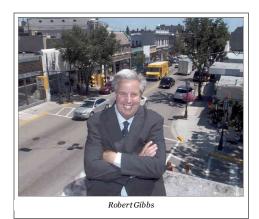
APA Washington is proud to announce that Ilana Preuss (Opening Session) and Robert Gibbs (Lunch Keynote) will present keynote addresses at this year's Annual Conference in Spokane.

Ilana Preuss is chief of staff at Smart Growth America. Preuss has nearly 20 years of experience working with communities across the country to help them build strong places by adopting and implementing smart growth policies. She brings a wealth of experience with federal, state and local real estate policy, creating national networks, leading trainings on communications and community engagement practices, and is an expert at direct engagement of local elected, business, and other community leaders on infill development. Preuss is an experienced speaker (see her TEDx presentation, "The Economic Power of Great Places") and a regular press spokesperson who has been featured in The New York Times and USA Today.

Ms. Preuss has a Master's degree from the University of Maryland in Environmental Planning, as well as a city planning degree from Cornell University.

Keynote Topic:

Mixed Use Industrial Concepts and the Conversion of Historic Industrial Properties to Office and Residential Uses



Robert Gibbs is a leading urban planning consultant who has contributed to over 400 master plans across the U.S., including Alexandria, Birmingham, Charleston, Detroit, Disney, Houston, Marquette, and Naples. He also planned Michigan's first ten New Urban communities and form-based codes. He founded GPG in 1988, and has prior experience with JJR/Smith and Taubman Centers. In 2012, Gibbs was honored by the Clinton Presidential Library for his life's contributions to urban planning and development and by the City of Auckland, New Zealand for his planning innovations.

A professional landscape architect in Michigan and North Carolina, Gibbs earned an MLA from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and resides in Birmingham, Michigan. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan chapters of the ASLA and CNU and is active in his community.

Keynote Topic:

X-Factor of Placemaking

For more information on the annual conference in October, visit http://www.washington-apa.org/conferences/2014.

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Reminder: Proposals for APA National Conference sessions due August 21

Is your work advancing the profession? Do you have fresh insights and analysis? Share them in Seattle next year!

Propose a session, workshop, or discussion and help make the next APA National Conference—scheduled for April 18 to 22, 2015—the best one yet.

The deadline for session, workshop and facilitated discussion proposals is August 21.

- · Tracks and symposia include:
- · Smart Cities and Sustainability
- · Parks, Recreation and Greening Communities
- · The Planning Office of the Future
- · The New Economy
- · Planning and Climate Change
- · Millenials, Gen X, Gen Y and Active Boomers

For information and to submit a proposal, visit: https://www.planning.org/conference/



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Ten Big Ideas: Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems

By Kara Martin, AICP and Laura Benjamin

BIG IDEAS INITIATIVE

Editor's Note:

The Ten Big Ideas Initiative, an outgrowth of the Game Changing Initiative in coordination with the Oregon APA Chapter, is designed to bring about far-reaching and fundamental change on a variety of issues. Topics include addressing climate change, rebuilding our infrastructure, restoring and protecting our ecosystems, supporting economic development, and supporting sustainable agriculture.

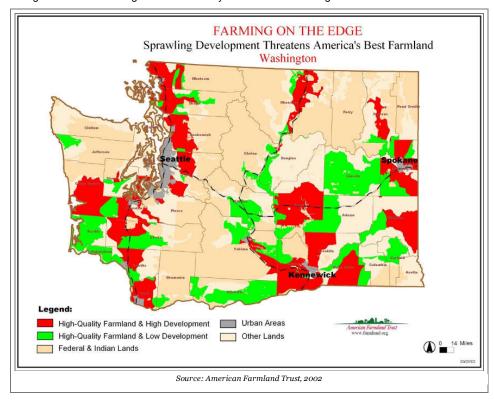
Each month, <u>The Washington Planner</u> will focus on one of the Ten Big Ideas, providing Washington APA members with more information on the work being done and how they can get involved. Our second installment focuses on ecosystems.

SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS



climbing average age of farm operators.

Development in Washington is threatening some of the state's best agricultural lands. In a twenty-five year span (1982-2007), the state lost over 350,000 acres of agricultural lands to development. Of this lost land, over one-third was considered prime agricultural lands. Conversion of agricultural land to developed areas not only reduces the land available to grow local food, but also increases stormwater runoff and water pollution, and negatively affects rural communities. Further compounding this continual loss of farmland are issues threatening the economic vitality of our farming sector, such as the rising cost of land and the



Ensuring that healthy food is accessible to all our communities is also a challenge. Lack of access to healthy food is a factor in our national obesity epidemic and affects adults and children throughout Washington. It is unclear how we can provide long-term sustainable food for our cities, and how we as planners can help to remedy "food deserts."

The state's Growth Management Act (GMA) puts the responsibility on counties to identify resource lands, including agricultural lands. Cities should also consider the value of including and preserving access to food supplies, the economic benefits of agricultural lands, and the value of agricultural lands for healthy natural systems.

To help reverse these trends, the Support Sustainable Agriculture & Healthy Food Systems working group is working to provide planners and communities with the necessary information and tools, collaborating across sectors, and working to build a sustainable, healthy food system. The working group is currently developing a variety of materials including:

- A set of shared food system definitions to guide their work plan and build awareness of food systems challenges within the planning community. Find definitions here.
- A two-part analysis of GMA's impact on farmlands. Part 1 includes a synthesis of existing reports see Part 1 report here. Part 2 is an examination at the county level of farmland availability and farmland policies. The group is focusing on the following counties: Benton, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Island, King, Kitsap, Klickitat, Okanagon, Spokane, Whitman, and Yakima.
- An annotated bibliography of resources on food system planning.

For more information on how you can lend your skills to support sustainable agriculture and healthy food systems throughout the state, please contact: Kara Martin, AICP at mailto:kara@urbanfoodlink.com? subject=Ten%20Big%20Ideas or 206-850-2877.

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Support Sustainable Agriculture & Healthy Food Systems Working Group shares its guiding definitions

The Support Sustainable Agriculture & Healthy Food Systems Working Group is using the following definitions to quide their work.

Sustainable agriculture integrates three main goals:1

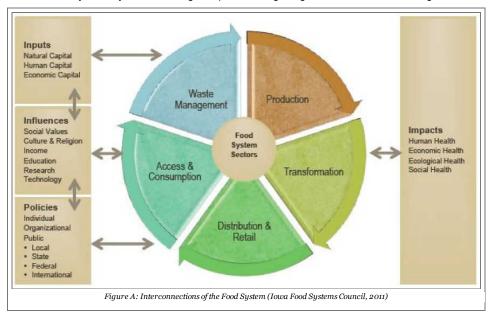
- · Environmental health
- · Economic viability
- Social and economic equity

The success of these goals depends on the principle that sustainable agriculture must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As a result, stewardship of both natural as well as human resources is critical. Human resources include the working and living conditions of farmers and laborers, the needs of urban and rural communities and consumer health and safety in the present and the future.

Viewing sustainable agriculture as a system is critical as well—from the individual farm to the local ecosystem and to communities affected by the farming system both locally and globally. Approaching sustainable agriculture as a system allows the perspective to be broader—that the consequences of farming practices affect both human communities as well as the environment. Reaching the goal of sustainable agriculture is achieved through the efforts of many different participants: farmers, laborers, policymakers, researchers, retailers, and consumers. Each group plays an important role.

Sustainable agriculture is a critical component to achieving a healthy food system. A healthy food system "emphasizes, strengthens, and makes visible the interdependent and inseparable relationships between individual sectors (from production to waste disposal) and characteristics (health-promoting, sustainable, resilient, diverse, fair, economically balanced, and transparent) of the system." ² Sustainable agriculture takes many forms, and is responsive to the ecology, history, and culture of a place and its people. Some examples of the diverse forms are indigenous practices of hunting, gathering, and resource management, small-scale diversified farms, permaculture projects, and urban and community gardens.

The food system encompasses a network of people and activities connecting production, processing, distribution, consumption, and food waste management, as well as associated inputs, influences and policies (see figure A). $^{3, 4}$



About the working group: The Support Sustainable Agriculture & Healthy Food Systems Working Group,

part of APA Washington's Ten Big Ideas Initiative, an outgrowth of the Game Changing Initiative in coordination with APA Oregon, is designed to bring about far-reaching and fundamental change on a variety of issues. Our group include APA members throughout the state:

Amalia Leighton, PE, AICP — SvR Design Company

Andrea Petzel, AICP — Broadview Planning

Branden Born — University of Washington

Carol Lumb — City of Tukwila

Dawn Meador McCausland

Greta Holmstrom, LEED-AP — Cowlitz County

Holly Gadbaw

Kara Martin, AICP — Urban Food Link

Megan Horst, AICP — University of Washington

Micki Harnois, City of Spokane Valley

Nathan Calene — City of Spokane

Susan Lauinger — City of Kirkland

To get involved or learn more, contact Kara Martin, kara@urbanfoodlink.com.

- ¹ Adaption of Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network's definition of sustainability and UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program's What is Sustainable Agriculture?
- ² American Planning Association's Principles of a Healthy, Sustainable Food System, 2012. Available at https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/foodprinciples.htm.
- ³ See Report of Washington's Food System: Response to Executive Order 10-02. Available at http://www.psrc.org/assets/7997/wa_exec_order_10-02.pdf.
- ⁴ Tagtow A, Roberts S. Cultivating Resilience: A Food System Blueprint that Advances the Health of Iowans, Farms and Communities. February 2011. Available at http://www.IowaFoodSystemsCouncil.org/cultivating-resilience/.



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How has the Growth Management Act made an impact on farmland in Washington?

By Megan Horst

About the working group: The Support Sustainable Agriculture & Healthy Food Systems working group is part of Washington APA's Ten Big Ideas Initiative. The initiative is designed to bring about far-reaching and fundamental change on a variety of issues.

Big Question: Has the Growth Management Act (GMA) impacted the amount of farmland in Washington State in terms of its continuance as farmland or its development/conversion to other uses?

Answering the Question: We are conducting a two-part research process. In Part 1, summarized in this article, we have synthesized the findings from existing relevant reports. In Part 2, we are examining specific counties and will share our findings in 2015.

To get involved or learn more, contact Kara Martin (<u>kara@urbanfoodlink.com</u>) or Megan Horst (<u>horstm@uw.edu</u>).

Overall Findings from Part 1 / Review of Four Studies:

- 1. There is no easy way to answer the question. Causes of land use change are complex, and a lack of historical data makes it hard to monitor over time.
- 2. Regarding identified agricultural land, a major challenge is that counties do not identify it the same way.
- 3. Regarding actual working farmland, a major challenge is that there is no available, comprehensive source of spatial data on active farmland, so various GIS-based approaches are used, all of which have room for error.
- 4. The studies may not adequately address the mix of drivers on development and farmland conversion/protection/use, such as demand for local food, development pressure, and policy. GMA is likely only one driver of land use change.
- 5. With these above limits in mind, the studies highlighted below seem to indicate that post-GMA, Washington State counties have had some success in slowing and even reversing conversion of farmland to developed uses. There are major differences from county to county, to be explored in Phase 2.
- 6. Oregon has had more success at slowing resource land (including farmland) conversion.
- 7. Even with some slowing in conversion, Washington still lost land in farms since passage of the GMA. The exact number of acres lost varies by study.
- 8. Low residential housing development is a major driver of conversion of resource lands.
- 9. There is a need for statewide collaboration to engage in systematic, consistent, scientific data collection on farmland.
- 10. An over-focus on farmland might miss other important elements of a healthy, sustainable food system, such as fisheries and indigenous food systems.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FOUR STUDIES

Gray, A. et al. (2013). Changes in Land Use and Housing on Resource Lands in Washington State, 1976-2006. USDA General Technical Report PNW-GTR-881.

Objective: Focuses on working farmland. Describes the amount and distribution of different land uses and housing structure densities in Washington and their changes from 1976 to 1994 and 2006.

Method: Derived from Lettman et al. (2011) and compared results with estimates derived from other studies. Based on manual classification of digital imagery from 1976, 1994, and 2006 to assess changes in land use and housing density. Excluded most federally owned land.

Data source: Aerial photography imagery from WA DNR from three different projects, b/w and color, scales from 1:24,000 to 1:40,000.

Scope: All 39 Washington counties, grouped into five areas.

FINDINGS:

(Note that the report itself has some data errors, and is supplemented by an additional table.)

- · Population in the state increased by 2.5 million people (66 percent) over the 30-year period, with most of the increase around Puget Sound. During this time, an estimated 1.16 million acres were converted from forestry, range, and agriculture land uses to low-density residential and urban land uses (equivalent to the conversion of a football field every 18 minutes).
- Twenty percent of non-federal land in Western Washington was in developed land uses in 2006.
- Statewide, agricultural land uses experienced conversion of 4 percent or 377,000 acres over the 30year period.
- The density of housing structures on lands in agricultural land uses also increased over the time period, particularly in areas close to developed land uses.
- Most of the loss of agricultural land occurred on the West Side (264,000 acres), with an overall loss of 0.7 percent per year, or 22 percent of the land area there.
- The rate of conversion of resource lands to developed lands was greater prior to 1994 than afterward.
- In Western Washington, 91 and 93 percent of mixed forest/agriculture and intensive agriculture classes were outside the UGAs. In Eastern Washington, 91 percent of mixed range/agriculture was outside of UGAs.
- The rate of housing increase on resource lands was greater from 1994 to 2006 than from 1976 to 1994 in Eastern Washington, but declined in Western Washington.

Lettman, G. (2013). Land Use Change on Non-Federal Land in Oregon and Washington. Report by US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.

Objective: Compares land use change in Oregon and Washington, from mid-1970s to 2009

Method/Data source: Same as Gray et. al. above

Scope: Compares Washington to Oregon

FINDINGS:

- A larger percentage of non-federal land in resource land uses converted to more developed uses in Washington than in Oregon over the study period. In Washington, the greatest declines by percentage occurred on land in mixed forest/agriculture use, which decreased by 22.3 percent (122,000 acres), and on land in wildland forest use, which declined by 4.7 percent (649,000 acres).
- On Oregon's non-federal land that changed land uses between 1974 and 2009, shifts from resource land uses to low-density residential or urban uses accounted for 70 percent of all net area change in land uses. The comparable figure for Washington is 81 percent between 1976 and 2006. Only in Western Washington was the increase in the area of land in urban use catching up with the increase in the area of land in low-density residential use.
- The conversion of private land in resource land uses in Western Oregon and Western Washington occurred more rapidly than in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington.
- In Washington, the largest single increase in any land use category over the study period was in the area of land in low-density residential use (835,000 acres).
- The average acreage converted per net new resident from non-federal resource to low-density or urban uses decreased for both states over the study period, dramatically so for Oregon from 0.91 to 0.23 acres per new resident but only slightly so for Washington from 0.42 to 0.41 acres per new resident, reflecting policies in effect before and after implementation of the two state planning

Puget Sound Regional Council. (2011). Natural Resource Land Trends in Central Puget Sound. A Puget Sound Trends report.

Objective: Focuses on identified farmland. Explores the resource land designation criteria, changes in the amount of land, changes in designations, residential development, and parcel sizes.

Method: Contains three parts: (1) a regional summary of changes on designated resource lands, (2) data and analysis showing county-level changes, and (3) technical appendices. The time period of the analysis is between the year 2000 and 2008.

Scope: King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

FINDINGS:

- Different classifications of agricultural land: King and Snohomish counties designate agricultural lands by soil class. Snohomish County includes only class III soils, while King County's soil class requirements include both type II and III soil classes. Pierce County designates agricultural land by soil type and yield. Another criteria is parcel size: Pierce County requires a five-acre minimum size, whereas King and Snohomish counties set 10-acre minimums.
- Trends in loss/gain of Puget Sound agricultural lands: Designated agricultural lands decreased by 6,700 acres or about 6 percent from 2000 to 2008. About 14,000 acres were changed to rural and about 1,500 acres to urban uses. However, about 8,900 acres of rural lands were redesignated to agriculture.
- King County: Has permanently protected 15,600 acres of private agricultural land using tools including acquisitions of conservation easements using multiple funding sources, transfers of development rights (TDR), and the county's outright fee purchase of resource lands.
- Kitsap County: No designated agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance in the county.
- Snohomish County: Has three agriculture designations, Riverway Commercial Farmland. Local Commercial Farmland, and Upland Commercial Farmland.
- Pierce County: In general has preserved those lands identified as resource lands. While the agricultural lands decreased from 2000 to 2008, the decrease is associated with the modification of designation criteria, not piecemeal conversion prompted by development pressure. Much land was redesignated as Rural Farm.
- Residential Development on Resource Lands: Between 0.2 and 2 percent of all housing development in the region occurred on agricultural lands.

Trhomovitch, T. (2002). The Growth Management Act (GMA) After More than 10 Years: Another Look & A Response to Criticisms. Report by 1000 Friends of Washington.

FINDINGS:

- The percentage of total farmland that has been designated for conservation under the Act varies widely from county to county.
- · Natural resources of statewide significance are not addressed in GMA.
- There should be additional state guidance and standards for designation and conservation of natural resources so that important resource lands are protected consistently throughout the state.
- The state should gather data related to forest and farmland conservation and should monitor and report regularly conversion of resource lands to urban uses.
- The state should identify natural resource lands of statewide significance and develop a strategy to protect these lands.

Megan Horst of the University of Washington wrote this article on behalf of the Washington APA's Support Sustainable Agriculture & Healthy Food Systems Working Group.

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Study explores Washington's Hispanic Population and Latino Placemaking for Central Washington

By Kerry Brooks and Dick G. Winchell, Eastern Washington University

This paper describes ongoing research and engagement with planners as well as significant demographic trends with respect to the Hispanic population in Washington counties. Its purpose is to increase awareness of important demographic and community changes and as well as responses to and opportunities from these changes. To these ends we first describe recent trends in Hispanic/Latino populations, followed by a discussion of some responses to these trends and the opportunities they present.

THE HISPANIC POPULATION OF WASHINGTON

The Hispanic population in the United States represented 12.5 percent of the total population in 2000, and increased to 16.9 percent by 2012, while in Washington Hispanics were 4.4 percent of the state's population in 1990, but increased to 11.2 percent by 2010, increasing from 214,570 persons to 755,790 persons

Hispanic population by county reflects concentrations in the largest urban counties of the state, and in rural counties in Central and Western Washington (see Figure 1).

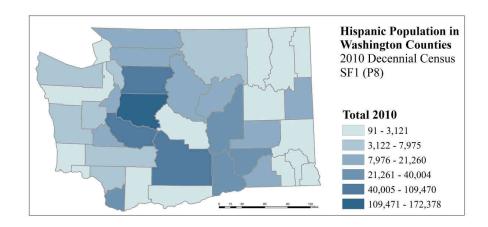


Figure 1 Hispanic Population in Washington Counties, 2010.

Two counties in the 2010 Decennial Census had Hispanic majorities within the state: Grant County (59.3% Hispanic) and Franklin County (51.2% Hispanic). Combined with Yakima (45.0%), Grant (38.3%), Douglas (28.7%), and Chelan (25.8%), the generally rural counties of Central Washington reflect the highest percentage Hispanic population (see Figure 2).

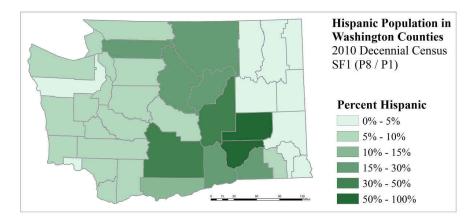


Figure 2 County Percentage of Hispanic Population, 2010.

Rate of change of the Hispanic population indicates significant growth that has continued since 1990. Only Columbia County did not increase, but actually decreased in Hispanic population. All other counties increased, with several reflecting significant increases of over 100 percent from the previous decade (see Figure 3). Several of these counties started with low Hispanic populations meaning that even though they experienced big increases in percentage terms, the Hispanic populations remain relatively small.

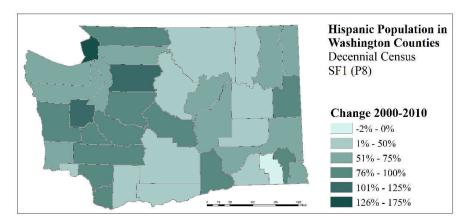


Figure 3 County Rate of Change for the Hispanic Population, 2000-2010.

At the county level, it is clear that a cluster of central Washington counties form a Hispanic 'hot-spot' in the state. Moreover, many Western Washington counties have seen large percentage increases in Hispanic population since 1990, and there are more localized concentrations of Hispanic citizens not evident at the county level (a more detailed spatial analysis of Hispanic population change is "in press" but should be available online this Fall (Brooks and Winchell 2014)). In either case, the increased presence of Hispanics in our towns, cities, and counties means that planners should engage the Hispanic community not only as a professional responsibility but also as an opportunity to establish more culturally diverse and appropriate placemaking. In the next section, we describe some recent efforts around engaging Hispanics planners and communities that highlight the opportunity to dialog with this important and growing community.

PLANNING RESPONSES AND OPPORTUNITIES

<u>APA's Latino and Planning Division</u> has established the framework of *diálogos* (dialogs) that engage Hispanic populations with planners and community leaders. The leaders of the Division have conducted numerous "diálogos" in communities across the nation, and published the results in an edited book: *Diálogos: Placemaking in Latino Communities* (Rios & Vazquez 2012). They offer a challenge to planers:

... the diversity of Latino communities challenges practitioners to consider novel ways to incorporate identities, institutional politics, dialogue, and decision-making in public processes. An essential skill is the ability to navigate among these elements. As cultural brokers, planners and designers are well positioned to identify the space between differences, and thereby to arrive at more democratic solutions. They must not only build bridges between cultural differences, but also mediate conflicts between those with and without power, and between communities and institutions. Inherent in bridging and mediating is cultural competency ... defined as a set of knowledge and skills to help individuals engage more effectively in culturally diverse environments. (Rios & Vazquez 2012, pp. 4-5).

The findings of Diálogos are that planners are often not aware of the issues and concerns of Hispanic

community members, and have difficulty in promoting community engagement within Hispanic populations. On the other side, the Hispanic population is engaged in identifying and addressing issues critical to the Hispanic community, often not connected to planners or community development initiatives. For planners working to build positive community change, strategies can involve both diálogos processes and the concepts and processes of <u>Latino Placemaking</u>.

An expanding body of literature, including the aforementioned Diálogos, the work of Leo Vazquez through the National Consortium for Creative Placemaking as well as a special edition of Urban Form providing examples of Latino Placemaking (Lara 2012), has set the stage for planners to support diálogos and positive community change in Washington. As an example of meeting this challenge and opportunity, EWU's urban planning and Chicano education programs have teamed to prepare a grant that would fund Dr. Vazquez, Dr. Rios, other scholars and Hispanic planners to introduce Latino Placemaking and to engage with planners in diálogos in Central and Eastern Washington. We encourage and challenge planners across Washington to participate in these dynamic community processes. As you do so, we urge you to share your experiences and accomplishments in this forum and others.

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Planning for Whole Communities Toolkit offers tips for creating livable cities and regions



Why do you choose to live in Washington?

Although it may be in part because of the spectacular weather in August, many people choose to live here because it is known as a healthy and diverse place with a vibrant economy. But these conditions don't happen by accident. Making our cities and regions a place we all want to live requires vision and deliberate planning.

The Puget Sound Regional Council is at the heart of this long-term land use, transportation, and economic development planning. Over the past year they have been working with city planners, community advocates, and public health professionals to develop the Planning for Whole Communities Toolkit-a resource for local jurisdictions to promote health, equity, and sustainability in their local planning efforts.

The Toolkit is divided into 25 resource guides describing specific tools and how to put them to work at the local level. While each resource guide is designed to stand alone, many are closely related and can be combined to create a suite of policies or programs that meets a jurisdiction's needs. The Toolkit is available at http://www.psrc.org/growth/wctoolkit.

"The toolkit will be a valuable one-stop resource for governments, non-profits, and community groups working to create and advocate for communities that are healthy, equitable, and sustainable," said Karen Wolf of King County, a senior policy analyst and Interagency Working Group member.

The Washington State Growth Management Act requires local cities to update their comprehensive plans by next year. This Toolkit can influence local plans, policies, and programs to promote healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities for all residents.

Find out more about the Planning for Whole Communities Toolkit by contacting Laura Benjamin, Puget Sound Regional Council, Lbenjamin@psrc.org, or the Information Center, info@psrc.org.

This effort was made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in partnership with Seattle Children's Hospital, Public Health-Seattle & King County and the Healthy King

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Department of Commerce provides updates to planners.

Read the Department of Commerce update for the latest information.

