

CHAPTER 3

RURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Clark County's rural and resource areas are characterized by forests, large and small scale farms, rivers and streams that provide quality habitat for fish and wildlife, and a wide variety of homes found in Rural Centers and scattered on lots in a broad range of sizes. Many rural residential communities are focused in areas with historic roots of large-scale commercial forestry, farming, and mining. Also, rural residential communities are focused on scenic resources such as rivers and views or to lifestyle activities such as the keeping of horses.

The soils and terrain in the rural and resource areas create significant environmentally sensitive areas, such as steep, erodable slopes, wetlands and ground water recharge areas. Maintenance of tree cover, natural vegetation and wetlands are critical to prevention of erosion, flooding, property and habitat damage, the continued functioning of the ecosystem and preservation of rural character.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

Statewide planning goals were adopted in 1990 as part of the Growth Management Act (GMA) to guide development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations. A basic principle of the GMA is that growth should first be directed to areas already characterized by growth and where growth can be supported with adequate urban facilities and services. By directing development to areas where facilities are currently provided or can be efficiently provided in the future, the county can better utilize limited resources in both rural and urban areas. Additionally, by generally directing growth to such areas, Clark County can ensure that a distinct option for rural living will be available for generations to come. This Chapter satisfies the GMA's mandatory Rural Element (RCW 36.70A.070 (5)) by:

- designating rural lands "lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture, forest or mineral resources";
- providing a projected 20-year population growth;
- identifying rural government services;
- providing a variety of densities for residential, commercial and industrial land uses; and,
- addressing rural character of such lands, which can include critical areas as well as small-scale farm and forestry activities.

This Chapter also satisfies the GMA's Goal 8 to maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries and designated resource lands (RCW36.70A.020 (8)).

CLARK COUNTY'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

Clark County's rural area contains predominately low-density residential development, farms, forests, watersheds crucial to fisheries and flood control, mining areas, small rural commercial centers, historic sites and buildings, archaeological sites and regionally important recreation areas. Designation and conservation of a rural area maintains rural community character as a valued part of the county's diversity. It also provides choices in living environments, maintains a link to Clark County's heritage, allows small-scale farming and forestry and helps protect environmental quality and sensitive resources.

As defined by (WAC 365-195-210(19)), rural lands are those areas, which lie outside of urban growth areas and do not include designated long-term resource lands (agriculture, forest or mineral resources). In Clark County the rural area represents a lifestyle based on historical development patterns and resource-based industries such as commercial forestry, Christmas trees, dairies, berry farming, orchards and mining. Today much of the county's rural lands include a mix of resource, small commercial, recreational and residential uses.

No single attribute describes the rural landscape. Instead combinations of characteristics which are found in rural settings impart the sense of what we commonly describe as rural. These factors are cumulative in nature and the more of these factors that are present influence feelings of whether a particular area is rural. In many cases these characteristics are subjective and frequently not all of them are found in each area. When describing rural conditions the public will often describe these areas in terms of a certain lifestyle. The factors listed below are those that usually describe "rural character."

- the presence of large lots;
- limited public services present (water, sewer, police, fire, roads, etc.);
- different expectations of levels of services provided;
- small scale resource activity;
- undeveloped nature of the landscape;
- wildlife and natural conditions predominate;
- closer relationship between nature and residents;
- personal open space;
- a sense of separation from intense human activity;
- a sense of self sufficiency; and
- rural commercial supporting rural area population.

Planning for rural lands in Clark County is important for the following reasons:

- to maintain a rural character;
- to recognize their location at the urban fringe, where they are susceptible to sprawl development which can overwhelm the existing character, infrastructure and way of life;
- to serve as transition areas between urban and resource uses because urban and resource uses are dependent on each other, but are not always compatible;
- to provide services and goods that support resource activities;
- to supply nearby urban residents with locally harvested resource products which are fresh and often less costly;

- to allow the efficient provision of public facilities and services by clearly delineating between urban and rural uses so that growth is directed to more compact urban centers;
- to add an important dimension to the quality of life through the existence of rural lands, open space and natural or critical areas;
- to provide for the planned future expansion of urban uses, if necessary or needed, in the rural lands that border designated urban areas; and,
- to protect and enhance streams and riparian habitat necessary for sustaining healthy populations of salmonids.

The Rural and Natural Resource Element is an integral part of the county's 20-Year Plan. This element concentrates on how future land use needs within rural and resource lands will be met, and the methodology used to designate resource lands. This element emphasizes how rural and resource lands should be used in the future, supporting the ongoing and future resource activities (farming, forestry and mineral extraction) and encouraging such activities on a smaller scale in the rural non-resource lands. Together, this element in concert with the rest of the 20-Year Plan supports the long-range vision for Clark County.

RURAL POPULATION GROWTH

The Rural Area is not expected to accommodate large amounts of growth, but allows for low-density residential development and other traditional rural uses. The GMA requires that rural development be contained and controlled to ensure the protection of rural character, assure the visual compatibility of rural development with the surrounding rural area, protect environmentally sensitive areas and habitat and protect against conflicts with natural resource uses such as farming, forestry and mining. As of April 2002, approximately 64,536 people resided within the rural and resource lands, or those areas outside of the urban growth areas.

It is anticipated that 14,728 people or 10 percent of the new growth will be accommodated in the rural area. The rural area population will increase to approximately 79,264 people by the year 2023. The total county population projection (including urban and rural areas) over the next 20 years is approximately 517,741 persons.

RURAL LAND DISTRIBUTION

Clark County is approximately 420,000 acres in size, of which approximately 340,000 acres are outside the Urban Growth Area. The predominate land uses outside the Urban Growth Area include forest, agriculture and single family residential development. Table 3.1 illustrates the distribution of land uses based on 1994 and 2003 zoning categories throughout the rural and resource lands.

Table 3.1 Acreage Totals Based on 1994 and 2003 Zoning Categories

ZONING	ACRES - 1994	ACRES - 2003
R-5, R-10, R-20	105,102	103,264
Ag, Ag/WL	39,802	37,044
FR-40, FR-80	157,516	157,516

RURAL CENTERS

Rural Centers are distinguished by small lot development with a definite edge, surrounded by a rural landscape of generally open land used for agriculture, forestry, large lot residential development, recreation and environmental protection purposes. Within these centers rural residential development is based on historical patterns. Commercial activities located at crossroads provide rural residents with an opportunity to meet many of their daily needs without going into one of the cities.

Within the Rural Centers, the following land uses have been identified: residential, commercial, industrial, public facilities, parks and open space. The commercial and industrial designations are similar to past comprehensive plan maps with some additional commercial areas designated. The commercial and industrial activities within these centers should support rural and resource needs and not draw people from the urban area.

Commercial uses to be encouraged in Rural Centers include post offices, veterinary clinics, day care, schools, small medical practices, shopping services and housing opportunities compatible with surrounding roads, and utilities. These, in turn, reinforce the center's rural character and distinct sense of community. The Rural Centers of Clark County are as follows: Brush Prairie, Meadow Glade, Hockinson, Dollars Corner, Farger Lake, Amboy, and Chelatchie Prairie.

Rural Commercial/Industrial Uses

Existing commercial uses are located within the rural and resource areas of Clark County. The majority of existing commercial uses can be found within the Rural Centers, although there is some commercial use outside these centers. Approximately 160 acres of commercial land can be found within the centers and approximately 30 acres outside these centers. Currently, the majority of industrial land is found within the cities or the proposed urban growth areas. Industrial land within the rural area is limited to the Brush Prairie area and Chelatchie, the site of the abandoned sawmill.

Commercial and industrial lands, especially regarding the relationship with employment, are discussed in more detail in Chapter 1, Land Use and Chapter 9, Economic Development. CR-1, CR-2, and MH are the zoning designations applied to rural commercial and industrial parcels.

Also, within the county are Rural Centers. These centers are often at the crossroads where historical development has allowed for both smaller lots and commercial uses within these nodes of development. Table 3.2 and 3.3 provides acreage information on existing land uses within these Rural Centers.

Table 3.2 Acreage of Land Uses in Clark County's Rural Centers, 1994

RURAL CENTERS	LAND USES in ACRES				
	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	PUBLIC	TOTAL
AMBOY	364	23	NA	13	400
BRUSH PRAIRIE	242	49	36		327
CHELATCHIE	279	15	229		523
DOLLARS CORNER	223	106	NA		329
MEADOW GLADE	1284	15	9		1,308
HOCKINSON	236	28	NA		264

Source: Assessor's Data Base

Table 3.3 Acreage of Land Uses in Clark County's Rural Centers, 2003

RURAL CENTERS	LAND USES in ACRES				
	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	PUBLIC	TOTAL
AMBOY	327	22	38	13	400
BRUSH PRAIRIE	242	49	37		327
CHELATCHIE	220	15	163		397
DOLLARS CORNER	216	115			330
MEADOW GLADE ¹	1074	14	8		1,308
FARGHER LAKE ²	65	24			89
HOCKINSON	234	29			263

Assessor's Data Base

¹*Meadow Glade is within the proposed Battle Ground UGA expansion.*

²*Fargher Lake was created in 2000.*

DESIGNATION CRITERIA

A variety of different attributes were assessed to determine the future land uses within the rural and resource lands of the county. As required by the Growth Management Act legislation, the conservation of resource lands (agriculture, forestry and mineral) was analyzed and based on the criteria provided, resource lands were designated. After identifying resource lands, the rural lands were analyzed with regard to lot patterns and sizes and current uses, including the commercial activity within the Rural Centers. Furthermore, rural lot sizes providing for primarily residential development were considered in light of the county's ability to properly serve such sites. The GMA designation criteria for both rural and resource lands were used in the determination of minimum lot sizes for all land use designations. This determination was also based on the population allocation to these areas and the ability to provide services. These land use designations emphasize the predominate types of uses be it resource-based or more residential in nature.

The policies (pages 3-14 through 3-18) for the rural area govern the use of lands, which are not reserved for agriculture, forest, or mineral resources, nor are they designated for urban development. Land uses, densities, and intensities of rural development are to be compatible with both adjacent urban areas and designated natural resource lands. A minimum lot size of one dwelling per five, ten, or twenty acres has been designated throughout the rural area based on existing lot patterns; buffers to adjacent resource lands; preservation of rural character, and continued small scale farming and forestry.

The policies for the resource areas govern the use of lands, which are reserved for agriculture, forest, and mineral resources. More specific designation criteria for these three resource land categories are found under the following three headings: Forest Lands, Agricultural Lands, and Mineral Lands.

RESOURCE LANDS

Clark County is fortunate to have a variety of lands rich in natural resources including forests, farmland and deposits of gravel, sand and other minerals. These natural resources are a component of the economy, providing jobs, tax revenue and valuable products and materials for local use and export. Farmlands and forests also provide aesthetic,

recreational and environmental benefits to the public while contributing to the diverse character of the county. The resource land designations are tailored to each of the resources and at a minimum address the guidelines provided by state law.

Below is a brief description of the state minimum guidelines and methodology used in designating forestry, agriculture and mineral resource lands. The majority of this work was developed with the assistance of three citizen focus groups, each responsible for a specific resource.

FOREST LANDS

The Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (DCTED) provided counties and cities with guidelines to assist in classifying and designating resource lands. These guidelines include criteria for identifying forest resource lands. According to DCTED, the private forestland grading system of the state Department of Revenue should be used in classifying forest resource lands, which includes the identification of quality soils for forestry. Long-term commercially significant forestlands generally have a predominance of higher private forestland grades.

Forest land is defined by the Growth Management Act as "land primarily useful for growing trees, including Christmas trees...for commercial purposes, and that has long-term commercial significance for growing trees commercially" (WAC 365-190-060). Long-term commercial significance "includes the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land."

The effects of proximity to population areas and the possibility of more intense uses of the surrounding lands are also important factors in classifying forestlands. DCTED provides seven indicators as guidelines for local governments to use in classifying forestlands:

- the availability of public services and facilities conducive to the conversion of forest lands;
- the proximity of forestland to urban and suburban areas and rural settlements: forestlands of long-term commercial significance are located outside the urban and suburban areas and rural settlements;
- forestlands consist of predominantly large parcels;
- the compatibility and intensity of adjacent and nearby land use and settlement patterns with forestlands of long-term commercial significance;
- property tax classification: property is assessed as open space or forestland pursuant to RCW 84.33 or 84.34;
- local economic conditions which affect the ability to manage timberlands for long-term commercial production and significance; and,
- history of land development permits issued nearby.

The delineation of forest lands began by quantifying and mapping DCTED's seven indicators. With the exception of soil grades (Figure 19), which are uniformly outstanding throughout the county, maps were created showing parcel size, tree cover, tax status, physical structures, roads, utilities, zoning, slope and rainfall. Urban areas and areas close to urban and suburban areas where few stands of timber remain were not mapped.

The maps were used to identify forest resources within the county. The task was made easier by the Washington Forest Protection Association, which represents many large

and small forest owners, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. These groups classified lands under their ownership for designation as long-term forest resource land. Other lands were designated based on the criteria outlined above.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Agricultural land is defined by the GMA as "land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticulture, viticulture, floriculture, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production" (WAC 365--190-050). Long term commercial significance "includes the growing capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-term commercial production, in consideration with the land's proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense uses of the land."



Quality soils are a primary factor in classifying and designating agricultural resource lands (Figure 20). DCTED requires that the land capability classification system of the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service be used in classifying agricultural resource land. This system includes eight classes of soils published in soil surveys. As with forestlands, the effects of proximity to population areas and the possibility of more intense uses of the land are important factors in classifying agricultural lands.

DCTED provides 10 indicators to assess these factors; however, it is left up to the local jurisdictions to interpret these guidelines in the designation of resource lands:

- the availability of public facilities,
- tax status,
- the availability of public services,
- relationship or proximity to urban growth areas,
- predominant parcel size,
- land use settlement patterns and their compatibility with agricultural practices,
- intensity of nearby land uses,
- history of land development permits issued nearby,
- land values under alternative uses, and
- proximity to markets.

The classification and designation of agricultural land began by quantifying and mapping DCTED's ten indicators. Maps were created showing prime and unique soil, agricultural cover, forest cover, parcel size, tax status, physical structures, roads, utilities and zoning. Heavily forested areas and urban areas were not mapped.

The maps were used to identify Clark County's most productive farmland. This process identified farm areas that included major patterns of high quality soils and agricultural activity in areas with generally larger parcels. These lands became candidate

areas for consideration as agricultural resource lands of long-term commercial significance. DCTED's guidelines again were used to more closely examine candidate areas with serious limiting factors and to determine the relative value of candidate areas for agricultural use. The Vancouver Lake lowland candidate area, with its high quality of soils, large parcels, and wildlife values, was placed in a special class. The remaining candidate areas were divided into three tiers.

After completion of this work, looking at forestry and agriculture on an individual basis, it was found that there were a number of areas where farming activity was occurring adjacent to forestry and vice versa or where parcels were not identified up because both farming and forestry activity was occurring on the site, with neither being the predominant use. Therefore, all the "edges" of the resource areas were reevaluated. Reconsideration of the land use designations in these areas was done by a task force in 1998. Through that review, much of the 35,000 acres of land designated as Agri-Forest under the 1994 Comprehensive Plan was redesignated to Rural 20, 10 or 5, representing 20, 10 or 5 acre minimum lot sizes. Approximately 3,500 acres of the land was disputed by an alternative task force contingent. Consideration was remanded back to the county by the courts. The Clark County Board of Commissioners voted to retain the rural designation rather than a resource designation.

MINERAL LANDS

The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.040(3)(b)) requires Clark County and each city within it to designate mineral resource lands and to adopt development regulations conserving those resource lands from which the extraction of minerals occurs or can be anticipated. The Act specifically requires the designation of "mineral resource lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals."



There are three key issues to the designation and conservation of mineral resource lands.

These issues include:

- defining what types of mineral resources are potentially significant in the county;
- defining the extent and long-term significance of aggregate that is needed to meet the demand of the county's projected population; and,
- determining how to balance a variety of land uses within mineral resource areas.

The mineral resources identified and mined in Clark County consist of two aggregate types: sand and gravel (round rock) and quarry rock.

The primary uses of sand and gravel deposits are aggregate for Portland cement "ready mix" concrete and asphalt concrete, drain rock, base rock and fill. There are four principle sand and gravel mining areas in Clark County: the North County-Woodland Area, East Fork of the Lewis River, Orchards and East Mill Plain. The deposits in the northern half

of the county are primarily recent alluvium and Pleistocene terrace deposits. The thickness of the alluvial deposits ranges from a few feet to tens of feet, while the terrace deposits are approximately 30-60 feet thick. The rocks have not been weathered and are fairly hard.

The most abundant gravel deposits lie in the southern portion of the county (Orchards, East Mill Plain). These are primarily recent alluvium and Pleistocene flood deposits. The gravel here is uniform in size, un-weathered, and contains a high percentage of hard, non-reactive rocks. This area also has little overburden and a close proximity to markets. Deposits range from 60 to 100 feet thick, with thickness generally decreasing with distance north from the Columbia River. The expansion of the Vancouver and Camas urban areas has made a major portion of this resource permanently inaccessible.

The second type of aggregate, quarry rock, is typically used as base rock for roads, riprap, jetty rock or as crushed aggregate. In southwest Washington, most quarry rock is of marine volcanic origin, characterized by poor strength and durability due to contact with sea water during extrusion of lavas. However, there are several locations in Clark County where high-quality basalt bedrock is found capable of producing substantial amounts of durable aggregate. Currently seven rock quarries are in active operation in the county. With the exception of Fisher Quarry, most rock quarries are located in the north and east portions of the county a considerable distance from the market.

Mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance were designated as part of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan. Mineral resource lands consist of areas that appear to contain the resource, based on the best available geological information; are primarily not within environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., 100-year floodplain, high quality wetland areas); and are at least 80 acres in size, or include at least one 40-acre parcel or two 20-acre parcels which are currently vacant. Parcel size is not a requirement if the land is adjacent to an existing mining site.

The 1994 Plan included a generalized map identifying potential mineral resource areas and existing permit activity (Figure 21). Specific sites were designated for mining on the 20-Year Rural and Natural Resources Map (Figure 22-A) based on DCTED criteria (WAC 369-190). The DCTED guidelines encourage the classification of known and potential mineral resources so that access to resources of long-term commercial significance is not knowingly precluded.

Estimates of statewide aggregate demand are based on surveys of producers. Because the survey response rates are typically low, use of these estimates for planning purposes requires considerable caution. A 1991 Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources survey, which had an exceptionally high response rate of 24% from sand and gravel producers, suggests that the per capita annual demand for sand and gravel in Washington was 12 tons or 9 cubic yards. Demand for quarry rock products was 4 tons or 3 cubic yards per capita based on data from the same DGER survey. Data from a 1991 US Bureau of Mines survey suggest that the per-capita annual demand for sand and gravel in Washington is 8 tons or 6 cubic yards. USGS statewide production data for 2001 indicate a per capita demand of 7 tons for sand and gravel and 3 tons for quarry rock

A 1992 survey of Clark County aggregate producers found that total production rates were 16.5 tons per capita in 1991 and 14.5 tons in 1992. Net exports of aggregate out of the county comprised 33% of the 1991 production. Therefore, the combined per capita consumption of aggregate in Clark County was 11.3 tons in 1991 and somewhat lower in 1992.

The Resource Document of the 1994 Comprehensive Plan included forecasts of aggregate supply and demand. Supply estimates were based on a survey of aggregate producers and a range of demand estimates was provided. Based on this forecast, the

supply of good quality sand and gravel on designated mineral lands in the county was projected to be exhausted by 2006 unless new sites were permitted. There have been six permits issued for new or expanded sand and gravel mining since the 1993 analysis was done:

- SE 1st Street Facility (10.54 acres, 70' depth, east Mill Plain area)
- Columbia Tech Center (148 acres, 35' depth, east Mill Plain area)
- Frost Pit (40 acres, 50' depth, east Mill Plain area)
- Columbia/English Pit (3 acres, unknown depth, east Mill Plain area)
- Reeb's / Parr (40 acres, 60' depth, east Mill Plain area)
- Tebo Pit expansion (58 acres, unknown depth, east Fork Lewis River)

One additional quarry site and two expansions were also permitted:

- Chelatchie Rock (13 acres)
- Maple Pit (37 acres)
- Livingston Mt. (40 acres)

While additional sites extend the timeframe slightly, it remains likely that the supply of available sand and gravel in the southern portion of the county will be basically mined out over the next five years. There are permit applications pending for extraction of terrace gravel deposits along the East Fork of the Lewis River. Mining near river channels comes at a higher cost to the environment and is more expensive and difficult to mitigate as compared with surface mines in the E. Mill Plain area. As local gravel supplies decrease, an increasing percentage of aggregates will be brought in by barge from up the Columbia River. A transition to greater use of crushed quarry rock, which produces a much greater return of aggregate per acre of surface area disturbed, is likely to occur over the next 10 to 20 years despite the market preference for round rock in some products such as Portland cement concrete.

Development standards were adopted in Clark County Code Chapter 40 to help maintain a balance between surface mining and adjacent land uses. Identified mining areas are designated with the Surface Mining District, which is an overlay zone that can be combined with any other zoning district. Extraction of mineral deposits in the Surface Mining District is a permitted use outright, while rock crushing, asphalt plants and concrete batch plants can be approved as conditional uses. Special standards include maximum permissible noise levels, hours of operation, drainage provisions and land restoration requirements. The provisions of this district also apply to surface mining operations that were active prior to the adoption of these standards.

Two areas within or adjacent to the Vancouver UGA (Fisher Quarry and Section 30/31) were designated in 1994 as "Mining Lands" with future land use designations to be determined at the time of reclamation. Fisher Quarry is now within the area proposed for expansion of the Vancouver UGA and has been designated as Business Park. Section 30 is the subject of a sub-area planning process which is expected to be completed in early 2004. Active mining continues in portions of the area designated "Mining Lands" in Section 31. This area is within the Vancouver Urban Growth Area, and is expected to transition to urban development over the next ten years. The "Mining Lands" plan designation (MG) and the Mining zoning designation will be phased out of use as soon as practical. The Surface Mining overlay will then be the sole means of designating current and future mining areas. Eliminating these multiple ways of designating mining land is the only change to the

county's mineral resource land designations and development regulations resulting from their review required with this Plan update under (RCW 36.70A.131).

Because of limited geological information regarding mineral resources within the county, the Comprehensive Plan also includes a means for designating new mineral resource areas in the future. The criteria matrix below (Table 3.4) is used to assess the feasibility of designating and protecting potential mineral resource areas.

Based on tonnage criteria suggested by DNR, there will be a need for approximately 1,900 acres of mineral resource lands if there is a 50-foot deposit of minerals or double the acreage if there is only a 25-foot deposit. This is based on a minimal amount of export of minerals outside Clark County.

An important step in this process was to identify potential mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance. This was based heavily on the criteria in the DCTED guidelines (WAC 369-190). The DCTED classification criteria were intended to ensure resource conservation in a manner that also maintains a balance of land uses. The DCTED guidelines encourage the classification of known and potential mineral resources so that access to resources of long-term commercial significance is not knowingly precluded.

The DCTED guidelines state that "other proposed land uses within (mineral resource areas) may require special attention to ensure future supply of aggregate and mineral resource material, while maintaining a balance of land uses." Special attention may include notification of property owners surrounding a designated mining site and a limitation on nuisance claims by surrounding property owners.

Future mineral resource lands consist of areas identified with the potential for the existence of mineral resources. These areas appear to contain the resource, based on the information supplied by DNR (Figure 21); are primarily not within environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., 100-year floodplain, high quality wetland areas); and are at least 80 acres in size, or which at least one 40-acre parcel or two 20-acre parcels are currently vacant. The size requirement is not a variable if adjacent to an existing mining site.

Because of limited geological information regarding mineral resources within the county, criteria were also established to help guide the designation of future sites not identified through this process.

Table 3.4 Matrix for Assessing Mineral Resources

	NOT SUITABLE	CONSIDER FOR PROTECTION	PROTECTION DESIRABLE	PROTECTION HIGHLY DESIRABLE	PROTECTION CRITICAL
QUALITY OF DEPOSIT	Low grade deposit.	Variable but located near use area or processing plant.	Deposit made economical to mine by upgrading material.	Grade meets the requirements for road construction or can be upgraded.	Concrete quality.
SIZE OF DEPOSIT	Small deposit.	Small deposit (less than 2,000 tons).	Medium-size deposit.	Large deposits (7.5 million tons).	Very large deposit (10 million tons).
ACCESS DISTANCE FROM MARKET	More than 20 miles from use area.	Distance from use area is minimized due to access to interstate.	Less than 10 miles of the use area; alternative access route available.	Large deposit presently beyond economical hauling distance to present use areas. Near highways: access can be provided.	Within 5 miles of uses area. Adjacent to highway with access for trucks.
COMPATIBLE WITH NEARBY AREAS	Adjacent land use presently incompatible with mining (appreciable residential development within range of excessive noise, dust, blasting, vibrations, etc.).	Scattered development within outer range of impacts of mining; owners may not object to mining.	Adjacent land suitable for development and within commuting distance of use area.	Imminent incompatible development on adjacent lands.	No incompatible land uses existing or likely in the foreseeable future (adjacent land in national forest, operator's ownership, agricultural land use.)
IMPACT OF NOISE	Noise level in adjacent presently developed areas would clearly exceed standards if mining occurred.		Noise level in adjacent undeveloped areas would exceed standards for likely use, but use of these areas can be easily delayed or economical mitigation can be provided by barriers.		Noise at adjacent residential are less than 50 dB(A) due to distance or topographical barrier, berm can be constructed easily.
IMPACT OF BLASTING	Too close to existing subdivision.				Blasting not required; permanent open space between quarry and other uses; topographic barrier between quarry and other land uses; only occasional light blasting; blasting compatible with adjacent uses.
IMPACT OF TRUCK TRAFFIC	Only access is local road through residential area.	Slightly longer alternative route exists.	Alternative truck route can be built at reasonable expense; alternative transportation (conveyor, etc., can be sued past residential streets).		Adjacent to freeway with access to site.
VISUAL IMPACT	Mining would destroy or create.	Mining activity cannot be screened and would permanently alter landscape.	Some activity visible from residential areas, but no permanent deterioration of landscape.	Mining activity can be easily screened by berms and/or vegetation.	Activity screened by topography or vegetation, or appreciably reduced by distance.
WETLANDS IMPACT	High quality wetlands throughout the site.	High quality wetlands only on a portion of site and can be avoided.	Lower quality wetlands on site and can be mitigated.	Wetlands can be avoided on sit.	No or minimal wetlands on site and of low quality.
SLOPES	Site located in active unstable slope area.	Potential or historical unstable slopes.	Unstable slopes on site can be avoided.	Minimal slopes throughout the site.	Level grade-mining site with minimal slopes.
BIOLOGICAL IMPACT	Negatively impacts rare, threatened or endangered plants or animals	Site includes prime wildlife habitat that would be permanently removed by mining.	Species of Special Concern located on site.	Minor or temporary loss of wildlife habitat.	No significant biological resources; rehabilitation of site would replace or create habitat.
IMPACT OF FLOODING	Mining would cause erosion of adjacent property; could be prevented only at great expense.		Mining would create erosion hazard for roads, bridges, and utility lines; however, these structures could be strengthened at reasonable costs.		Mining would create flood control channel and would not damage adjacent land.

CRITICAL/SENSITIVE LANDS

Identification and protection of critical areas is a key component of the GMA legislation. The critical areas component, including maps, definitions and policies, can be found in Chapter 4, Environmental Element. Critical areas can be found within the urban areas and within the rural and resource areas of the county. These critical areas include flood hazard areas, geological hazard areas, wetlands, shoreline and surface waters, wildlife conservation areas, aquifer recharge areas and scenic areas.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Realizing the importance of parks and recreation to the livability of the community, Clark County adopted its first Parks Comprehensive Plan in 1965. The Clark County Parks and Recreation Division owns and operates approximately 5,007 acres of park and open space lands. These lands are divided into three categories: urban, regional and special facilities. This includes 10 regional parks, three special facilities acres, and conservation areas and greenway systems. Many of these parks are in the rural area, including Moulton Falls, Lewisville Park, Lacamas Lake, Siouxon and Whipple Creek Park. Recreational facilities are discussed in more detail in Chapter 7, Parks and Open Space.

MASTER PLANNED RESORTS

The Growth Management Act allows counties to permit master planned resorts. A master planned resort means a self-contained and fully integrated planned unit development, in a setting of significant natural amenities, with primary focus on destination resort facilities consisting of short-term visitor accommodations associated with a range of developed on-site indoor or outdoor recreational facilities. A master planned resort may include other residential uses within its boundaries, but only if the residential uses are integrated into and support the on-site recreational nature of the resort (RCW.36.70A.360).

CAPITAL FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

Capital facilities are the basic services that the public sector provides to support land development including roads, public schools, fire and police protection, parks, libraries, and utilities. Within the rural area, water availability is provided either through private wells or by Clark Public Utilities. Sewage disposal is predominately provided by on-site septic disposal. However, there are areas, which have sanitary sewer systems due to failures of the septic systems, such as Meadow Glade and Hockinson. Utilities are discussed in greater detail in Chapter 6, Capital Facilities and Utilities.

TRANSPORTATION

Land use and transportation are closely linked, even within the rural and resource areas. Within the rural area, the functional classification for roads includes Rural Principal Arterials, Rural Minor Arterials and other rural roads such as Major and Minor Collectors and local roads. Analysis of rural road definitions and deficiencies is discussed in Chapter 5, Transportation.

COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK PLAN

Clark County adopted the Community Framework Plan in April 1993. The Framework Plan established a consensus among the citizens of the county about the lands, which would eventually be committed to urban uses and those which should remain rural. The Framework Plan is not a detailed plan, but a plan that provides a framework through policies that guide the development of the 20-Year Plan. The Framework Plan policies are discussed

in Chapter 1, Land Use. Policies that relate to rural lands can be found in most elements of the plan including Land Use, Rural and Resource Lands, Transportation, Public Facilities, Utilities, Parks and Open Space, Economic Development and Community Design.

GOALS AND POLICIES

3.0 County-wide Planning Policy

The county shall recognize existing development and provide lands, which allow rural development in areas, which are developed or committed to development of a rural character.

The county and each municipality shall cooperate to ensure the preservation and protection of natural resources, critical areas, open space, and recreational lands within and near the urban area through adequate and compatible policies and regulations

20-Year Plan Policies

RURAL LANDS

GOAL: *Maintain the existing rural character and compatibility with resource-based economic uses, such as farming, forestry, mineral extraction and recreation.*

3.1 Policies

3.1.1 Clark County shall maintain and protect the character of its designated Rural Area. Therefore, the county's land use regulations and development standards should protect and enhance the following components of the Rural Area:

- environmental quality, particularly as evidenced by the health of wildlife and fisheries (especially salmon and trout), aquifers used for potable water, surface water bodies and natural drainage systems;
- commercial and non-commercial farming, forestry, fisheries, and mining;
- community Rural Center atmosphere, safety, and locally-owned small businesses;
- regionally significant parks, trails and open space;
- large lot residential development compatible with adjacent farming, forestry and mining and not needing urban facilities and services; and,
- historic character and resources including archaeological and cultural sites important to the local community.

3.1.2 The Rural Area designations shown on the Clark County Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map include areas that are rural in character and meet one or more of the following criteria:

- opportunities exist for significant commercial or non-commercial farming and forestry (large-scale farms and forest lands are designated as Natural Resource lands);

- the area is contiguous to other lands in the Rural Area, Natural Resource Lands or large, predominantly environmentally sensitive areas;
- the area will help buffer nearby Natural Resource Lands from conflicting urban uses;
- there are major physical barriers to providing urban services at reasonable cost, or such areas will help foster more logical boundaries for urban public services and infrastructure;
- the area is not needed for the foreseeable future that is, beyond the 20-year forecast period to provide capacity for population or employment growth;
- the area has outstanding scenic, historic, environmental, resource or aesthetic values that can best be protected by a Rural Area designation; or,
- significant environmental constraints make the area generally unsuitable for intensive urban development.

3.1.3 Clark County's Rural Area is considered to be permanent and shall not be redesignated to an Urban Growth Area until reviewed pursuant to the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.130(3), and County-wide Planning Policy 3.0.

3.1.4 Support and encourage uses within rural lands which sustain and are compatible with the rural character and level of public facilities and services, such as:

- small scale forest and farm management;
- large lot residential development;
- open space, parks, trails /recreation;
- mining; and,
- home business occupations.

3.1.5 Encourage and support public recreation, education and interpretive activities and facilities which complement the rural character and resource activities located throughout the rural area.

3.1.6 Master Planned Resorts (MPR) may be approved in an area outside of established Urban Growth Boundaries providing they meet the following criteria:

- the land proposed is better suited and has more long-term importance for a Master Planned Resort than the commercial harvesting of timber or agricultural production, if located on land that otherwise would be designated as a forest or agricultural resource;
- the location, design, and provision of necessary utilities does not allow for the development of new urban or suburban land uses in the immediate vicinity;
- the proposed site includes unique natural amenities, such as views, streams, lakes or other features that provides a natural attraction for public use;

- the proposed development provides urban level public services that are strictly contained within the boundaries of the resort property by design and construction;
 - the proposed site for the Master Planned Resort is sufficient in size and configuration to provide for a full range of resort facilities while maintaining adequate separation from any adjacent rural or resource land uses;
 - residential uses are designed primarily for short-term or seasonal use, full time residential uses should be limited;
 - the major recreational facilities within the Master Planned Resort must be open to the public and the overall facilities and recreational activities should promote tourism and the recreational goals of the comprehensive plan;
 - each proposal should include a full inventory of critical wildlife habitat, significant wetlands, shorelines and floodplains, and cultural resources;
 - significant natural and cultural features of the site should be preserved and enhanced to the greatest degree possible;
 - commercial uses and activities within the MPR should be limited in size to serve the customers within the MPR and located within the project to minimize the automotive convenience trips for people using the facilities; and,
 - adequate emergency services must be available to the area to insure the health and safety of people using or likely to use the facility.
- 3.1.7 Establish standards and programs whereby residents of rural lands adjacent to designated resource lands are informed that they are locating in a natural resource area and will be subject to normal and accepted farm, forestry or mining practices that comply with federal, state and local regulations.
- 3.1.8 Establish programs for the rural area, which notify and educate residents of ongoing small-scale resource activities.
- 3.1.9 Encourage cooperative resource management among farmland and timberland owners, farm foresters, rural residents, environmental groups and local, state, and federal resource agencies for managing private and public farm and forestlands and public resources.
- 3.1.10 Establish provisions for intensity of rural development, including a range of lot sizes based on natural characteristics, proximity to designated natural resource lands, transportation circulation, availability of services which are adequate without extending or up-grading levels of service (LOS), and open space areas.
- 3.1.11 Those areas with a Comprehensive Plan designation of Rural shall have a residential density of one dwelling unit per 5, 10, and 20 acres.
- 3.1.12 Rural development shall not be allowed unless appropriate facilities and services (water, storm drainage, roads and approved sanitary treatment) are in place or planned.
- 3.1.13 Rural lands generally shall be served by septic tanks and individual wells (when public water is not available).
- 3.1.14 Standards and plans for utility service should be consistent with long-term low-density development and resource industries and should be coordinated in a

manner to maintain public health and safety at efficient and cost effective levels in areas of rural and natural resource designated lands.

3.1.15 Wastewater treatment shall be provided by individual on-site treatment systems or approved alternative sewage treatment technologies. Sewer lines shall not be extended into rural areas except to correct existing health hazards and provided other means for treatment, such as state approved alternative technologies, have been assessed and determined not to be feasible due to environmental constraints.

3.1.16 Rural and Resource land designations within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area are consistent with the requirements of the National Scenic Area legislation. The minimum lot size requirements and uses shall only be authorized to the extent that they are consistent with the National Scenic Area legislation established to implement the requirement of the scenic area.

RURAL CENTERS

GOAL *Maintain the character of the designated Rural Centers within the surrounding rural area that is appropriate in character and scale in the rural environment.*

3.2 Policies

3.2.1 Rural Centers designated on the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map are distinct areas of smaller lot patterns with residential development, small-scale business that provides convenience shopping and services to nearby rural residents, have access to arterial roadways, and are surrounded by protected rural landscapes of generally open land used for agriculture, forestry, large lot residential, recreational and environmental protection purposes. The Rural Centers identified on the Comprehensive Plan map are: Amboy, Brush Prairie, Chelatchie Prairie, Dollars Corner, Fargher Lake, Hockinson, and Meadow Glade.

3.2.2 Rural Centers should serve the following purposes:

- provide a focus for the surrounding rural area that is appropriate in character and scale in the rural environment;
- provide appropriate commercial developments to serve adjoining rural areas;
- provide services to tourists and other visitors recreating in the area; and,
- provide an opportunity to develop facilities that can function as a community center in those areas where an incorporated town no longer serves that role for the surrounding area.

3.2.3 Designation criteria for Rural Centers includes identification of pre-existing small lot development patterns, natural features as boundaries, and access to arterials.

3.2.4 Rural commercial development should support the needs of rural residents and natural resources activities rather than urban area uses. Strip-type development should be discouraged.

- 3.2.5 If schools serving predominantly rural populations cannot be located in UGAs or within ¼ mile of a UGA, preference shall be to locate the schools in Rural Centers and as a last resort, rural areas, subject to policy 3.2.6.
- 3.2.6 Schools may be located in resource or rural areas where necessary to serve population growth and attendance areas principally lying outside of the urban growth area or Rural Centers, subject to the following:
- Before siting schools in the resource or rural areas, the district shall demonstrate that the proposed site is more suitable than alternative sites within the existing urban growth area or Rural Centers. Suitability includes factors such as size, topography, zoning, surrounding land uses, transportation, environmental concerns and location within the area to be served.
 - The school district shall demonstrate that the transportation facilities serving the site are adequate to support site generated traffic, including buses.
 - Upon locating any school in the rural or resource area, the school district shall agree to connect to public water when it becomes available within 1000 feet or less of the site, provided such a connection does not necessitate special facilities or capital improvements to increase the capacity of the system.
 - The school district shall agree to connect to public sewer when it becomes available within 1,000 feet or less of the site, provided such a connection does not necessitate special facilities or capital improvements to increase the capacity of the system. Such sewer extension shall be tight-lined and have access restrictions precluding service to the Rural Areas.
- 3.2.7 Encourage resource based industrial development to locate within Rural Centers, consistent with rural character and levels of service.
- 3.2.8 Encourage uses, such as rural commercial, post offices, veterinary clinics, day care, small medical practices and schools that provide employment, shopping services and housing opportunities within Rural Centers. The scale should be compatible with surrounding roads and utilities, which reinforce the rural character and distinct sense of community.
- 3.2.9 Rural Centers shall have a density of between one unit per acre and one unit per five acres based on the historical lot pattern in the area, in no case shall density exceed one unit per acre.
- 3.2.10 Commercial activities in rural areas should be located in Rural Centers. Commercial uses supporting resource uses, such as packing, first stage processing and processing which provides value added to resource products may occur in resource areas.
- 3.2.11 A new Rural Center or a boundary expansion of an existing Rural Center shall be considered and evaluated by the county through the docket process under CCC 40.560.030 and pursuant to RCW36.70A.070 (5)(d).

- 3.2.12 Before the county considers a new Rural Center the proponent(s) shall submit to the county a petition signed by at least 60 percent of the property owners of the land within the boundaries of the proposed new Rural Center.
- 3.2.13 Before the county considers an expansion of an existing Rural Center the proponent(s) shall submit to the county a petition signed by at least 60 percent of the property owners within the boundaries of the existing center.

RESOURCE LANDS

Commercial Forest Tier I and II

GOAL: *To maintain and enhance the conservation of productive forestlands and discourage incompatible uses associated with forestry activities.*

3.3 Policies

- 3.3.1 Encourage the conservation of long-term commercial significant forestlands for productive economic use.
- 3.3.2 Capital improvement plans should take into consideration maintaining public roads adequate to accommodate the transport of forest commodities.
- 3.3.3 In identifying and designating commercial forest land, the following factors shall be taken into consideration: operational factors, growing capacity, site productivity and soil composition, surrounding land use, parcel size, economic viability, tax status, and public service levels that are conducive to long-term continuance in forest management.
- 3.3.4 Primary land use activities in forest areas are commercial forest management; agriculture, mineral extraction, ancillary uses and other non-forest related economic activities relying on forestlands.
- 3.3.5 Encourage the multiple economic use of forestland for a variety of natural resource and activities particularly suited for and compatible with forestlands.
- 3.3.6 Commercial forestland, considered desirable for acquisition for public recreational, scenic and park purposes, shall consider its impact on a viable forest industry including but not limited to forest management practices on adjacent lands, buffering and transportation of forestry products.
- 3.3.7 Encourage the maintenance of forestlands in timber and current use property tax classifications, including classified forest land, designated forest land and forest open space classifications, as provided for in (RCW 84.28) and (RCW 84.33).
- 3.3.8 Establish or expand special purpose taxing districts and local improvement districts in lands designated in the 20-Year Plan for forest use only when the services or facilities provided by the special purpose district or local improvement district through taxes, assessments, rates or charges directly benefit those forest lands.
- 3.3.9 Encourage the concept of cooperative resource management among timberland owners, environmental groups, state and federal resource agencies and federally recognized Native American tribes for managing the state's public and private timberlands and public resources.

- 3.3.10 Land use activities within or adjacent to forest land shall be located and designed to minimize conflicts with forest management and other activities on forestland.
- 3.3.11 Residential development on lands adjacent to designated forestland shall be located away from the forestland and should provide for a buffer between residential and forest activity.
- 3.3.12 Special development standards for access, lot size and configuration, fire protection, water supply and dwelling unit location shall be adopted for dwellings within or adjacent to designated forest lands.
- 3.3.13 Encourage the continuation of commercial forest management by:
 - supporting land trades that result in consolidated forest ownership; and,
 - working with forest landowners and managers to identify and develop other incentives for continued forestry.
- 3.3.14 Forest and mining activities performed in accordance with county, state and federal laws should not be considered public nuisances nor be subject to legal action as public nuisances.
- 3.3.15 Notification shall be placed on all plats and binding site plans that the adjacent land is in resource use and subject to a variety of activities that may not be compatible with residential development.
- 3.3.16 Within the Forest Tier I category, only one principal dwelling unit per 80 acres shall be allowed with the provision for an additional temporary dwelling.
- 3.3.17 Within the Forest Tier II category, one principal dwelling unit per 40 acres shall be allowed with the provision for an additional temporary dwelling.

Agriculture Policies

GOAL: To maintain and enhance productive agricultural lands and discourage incompatible uses associated with farming activities.

3.4 Policies

- 3.4.1 Encourage the conservation of the county's highest quality agricultural lands for productive agricultural use and protect the opportunity for these lands to support the widest variety of agricultural crops and products as listed in (RCW 36.70A.030(2)) by designating agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance.
- 3.4.2 In order to conserve commercial agricultural lands, the county shall limit residential development in or near agricultural areas and limit public services and facilities, which lead to the conversion of agricultural lands to non-resource uses.
- 3.4.3 Minimum parcel size should be adequate to allow reasonable and economic agricultural use and to discourage the conversion of agricultural lands to residential use.
- 3.4.4 The primary land use activities in agricultural areas shall be commercial agriculture; forest management, mineral extraction, ancillary uses and other non-agricultural related economic activities relying on agricultural lands.

- 3.4.5 Land uses on commercial agricultural lands shall include all standard agricultural practices and supporting activities, including farm worker housing and use of water resources for irrigation.
- 3.4.6 Capital improvement plans should take into consideration maintaining public roads adequately to accommodate the transport of agricultural commodities.
- 3.4.7 Commercial agricultural land considered desirable for acquisition for public recreational, scenic and park purposes shall first be evaluated for its impact on a viable agricultural industry.
- 3.4.8 Encourage the maintenance of agricultural lands in current use property tax classifications, including those classifications as provided for in (RCW 84.34) and (CCC 3.08).
- 3.4.9 The county should establish or expand special purpose taxing districts and local improvement districts in lands designated in the plan for agricultural use only when the services or facilities provided by the special purpose district or local improvement district, through taxes, assessments, rates or charges, directly benefit those agricultural lands.
- 3.4.10 Endorse the concept of cooperative resource management among agricultural land owners, environmental groups, state and federal resource agencies and federally recognized Native American tribes for managing the county's public and private agricultural lands.
- 3.4.11 Land use activities within or adjacent to agricultural land shall be located and designed to minimize conflicts with agricultural management and other activities on agricultural land.
- 3.4.12 Residential development on lands adjacent to agricultural land shall be located away from the agricultural land and shall provide a buffer between residential and agricultural activity.
- 3.4.13 Public services and utilities within and adjacent to designated agricultural areas should be designed to prevent negative impacts on agriculture and allow for continued resource activity.
- 3.4.14 Encourage the continuation of commercial agricultural management by:
 - supporting land trades that result in consolidated agricultural ownership; and,
 - working with agricultural landowners and managers to identify and develop other incentives for continued farming.
- 3.4.15 Encourage agricultural land use as a clean industry incorporating tax breaks, right to farm, transfer of development rights and other economic means and develop strategies to support farming practices
- 3.4.16 Agricultural activities performed in accordance with county, state and federal laws should not be considered public nuisances nor be subject to legal action as public nuisances.
- 3.4.17 Notification shall be placed on all plats and binding site plans that the adjacent land is in resource use and subject to a variety of activities that may not be compatible with residential development. The notice should state that agricultural, forest or mining activities performed in accordance with county, state and federal laws are not subject to legal action as public nuisances.

- 3.4.18 Within the Agriculture land designation, one principal dwelling unit per 20 acres shall be allowed with the provision for an additional temporary dwelling.
- 3.4.19 Within the Agriculture/Wildlife category, one principal dwelling unit per 160 acres shall be allowed.

Mineral Lands

GOAL: *To protect and ensure appropriate use of gravel and mineral resources of the county, and minimize conflict between surface mining and surrounding land uses.*

3.5 Policies

- 3.5.1 Support the conservation of mineral lands for productive economic use by identifying and designating lands of long-term commercial significance, consistent with the 20-year planning horizon mandated by growth management.
- 3.5.2 Capital improvement plans should take into consideration maintaining and upgrading public roads adequate to accommodate transport of mineral commodities.
- 3.5.3 In identifying and designating commercial mineral lands, the following factors should be taken into consideration: geological, environmental and economic factors; existing and surrounding land uses; parcel size; and public service levels that are conducive to long-term production of mineral resources.
- 3.5.5 Encourage recycling of concrete, aggregate and other materials.
- 3.5.6 Encourage restoration of mineral extraction sites, as the site is mined, consistent with requirements identified in RCW 78.44.
- 3.5.7 Land shall not be used for any activity other than surface mining or uses compatible with mining until the gravel or mineral resource is commercially depleted, reasons for not mining the site are clearly demonstrated, or the site has been reclaimed.
- 3.5.8 Surface mining other than Columbia River dredging shall not occur within 100-year Floodplain.
- 3.5.9 Mineral extraction operations shall be conducted in a manner, which will minimize the adverse effects on water quality, fish and wildlife, adjacent activities and the scenic qualities of the shorelines. Any adverse impacts shall be mitigated.
- 3.5.10 Land use activities adjacent to mineral lands should be located and designed to minimize conflicts with mineral activities on such lands.
- 3.5.11 Designated mineral operations of long-term commercial significance are not exempt from the normal environmental review process of the county or state agencies.
- 3.5.12 Establish standards and programs whereby residents of rural lands adjacent to designated resource lands are informed that they are locating in a natural resource area and that will be subject to normal and accepted mining practices that comply with federal, state and local regulations.

- 3.5.13 Prior to removal of the surface mining designation, the landowner needs to show that the extraction of the mineral resource is not commercially feasible.
- 3.5.14 The county shall allow continued mining at existing active sites.
- 3.5.15 Potential aggregate sites or expansion shall not be designated within rural zoning categories.
- 3.5.16 Designation to alternative land uses at the time of reclamation shall take into consideration surrounding land uses and other policies of this 20-Year Plan.
- 3.5.17 Future land use designations for those areas designated Mineral Lands (Fisher Quarry and Section 30/31) should be made consistent with city land use and at the time of annexation.
- 3.5.18 Some level of processing should be associated with mineral extraction.
- 3.5.19 Future sites designated with a surface mining overlay shall be assessed on a case by case basis, based on the commercial or industrial value of the resource, and the relative quality and quantity of the resource as well as the following conditions:
- the resource should be of a quality that allows it to be used for construction materials or meet applicable quality specifications for the intended use(s);
 - the resource should be of a quantity sufficient to economically justify development based upon the characteristics of the aggregate, life of the resource site, cost of extraction, accessibility, opportunity, type of transportation and the location of high demand areas; and,
 - designation of these mineral resource lands should follow the "Criteria for Designating Mineral Resources," as outlined in the Designation Criteria component of the Rural and Natural Resource Element.
- 3.5.20 Clark County's Shoreline Master Program shall be reevaluated for consistency with the Growth Management legislation and Clark County's 20-Year Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. Any areas of inconsistency shall be reviewed and resolved with either modification of the Shoreline Master Program or Comprehensive Plan policies, which ever is more appropriate.

STRATEGIES

- Develop and implement a Right to Farm/Log ordinance.
- Update the Habitat Conservation Ordinance and other ordinances to meet salmon recovery goals.
- Evaluate a variety of funding sources and their feasibility for acquisition of land and other programs to implement the policies within the Rural and Natural Resource Element and to comply with regional salmon recovery goals and objectives.
- Maintain an inventory of gravel and mineral resource sites. The inventory should comprise of:
 - a list of designated sites;
 - a list of “potential” sites for which information about the quality and quantity of the site is not adequate to allow a determination of long-term commercial significance;
 - a list of current sites; and,
 - a list of active sites.
- Continue to evaluate and pursue a program for Purchase of Development Rights or Transfer of Development Rights but be selective as to where these programs should be applied.
- Work with local, state and national land trusts as a non-governmental option to protect resource lands using programs such as conservation easements, life estates and other tools.
- Develop new design standards for the rural and resource areas, in part based on whether the parcels conform or not to current zoning.
- Develop a program that would tie authorization to build a new residence with a demonstrated intent to manage the property in concert with the resource.
- Develop a program in areas where parcelization has occurred which allows the same number of lots with design which will have less impacts on the surrounding lands.
- Cooperatively with other groups or agencies develop a rural handbook which would provide information on the types of activities that can and should occur in the rural area.
- Develop a program to change the structure of the Open Space Current Use Taxation based on a public benefit rating system.
- Develop an ordinance consistent with the requirements of the scenic area for those areas designated within the CRGNSA and within the county.
- Develop a best management plan for agriculture resources.
- Develop a best management plan for mineral resources.
- Develop a best management plan for forestry resources.