

From: [valerie anderson](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#)
Subject: 2016 comprehensive plan
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i am writing to comment on the 2016 comprehensive plan. as a recent transplant to whatcom county from pierce county, i encourage protection of farmlands and restricted residential growth within the floodplains. there is simply no way to replace the benefits provided by natural systems. wetland mitigation is a poor substitute for the flood and erosion control as well as habitat provided by these natural areas. is there any evidence that engineered wetlands provide any functional value? seems like a feel good solution at best.

in the short 6 months i've lived in the lake whatcom watershed i've noticed residential building practices that allow removal of a substantial portion of existing trees and vegetation, only to be replaced by very large homes, impermeable driveways and lawns. the amount of run-off during rain events is phenomenal. there is very little infrastructure provided for walking, bicycling, or even public transportation. not even a shoulder on the road. welcome to life in the american suburbs. but i feel very fortunate to have affordable housing this close to town. sure prices drop as one moves from the center and driving increases.

my hope is that the people of whatcom county can work together to retain the natural wild beauty, bountiful agricultural land, and community spirit that makes this such an outrageously amazing place. thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

best
valerie anderson