

Date: September 3, 2015
To: Lewis County Planning Commission
From: Fred Evander, Senior Long Range Planner
RE: **PUBLIC HEARING – LEWIS COUNTY COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES**
Attachments: Lewis County Countywide Planning Policies (16 Pages)

The purpose of this staff report is to present the Lewis County Countywide Planning Policies (CWPPs) for a public hearing on September 22, 2015. These planning policies have not been changed from the current guidelines, and are in front of the Planning Commission for a recommendation (that will be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners).

ISSUE

The CWPPs establish a framework that influences the development of comprehensive plans in Lewis County. The CWPPs are adopted by the County and reviewed annually by the Planned Growth Committee (PGC), a committee comprised of representatives from each community. The PGC looks at possible urban growth area boundary changes proposed by the cities and also reviews any Office of Financial Management (OFM) Growth Management population allocations that are received by the county. The PGC then forwards its recommendations about potential changes to the Planning Commission for eventual adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

PLANNED GROWTH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

As part of this year's update, there were no changes to the population forecast received from OFM and the PGC did not receive any requests by Lewis County cities to change their urban growth area boundaries. Based on these factors and the careful consideration of the policies during a workshop on April 22, 2015, the PGC recommended that the Planning Commission make no changes to the county's existing CWPPs, the existing urban growth area boundaries, or the existing Growth Management population allocations.

PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSHOP

The Planning Commission reviewed CWPPs at their meeting on July 14, 2015, and concurred that no changes would be necessary this year. In review of the document, the Commission did however note that it may recommend some changes to the PGC prior to the 2017 Comprehensive Plan update.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission hold a public hearing on the existing Countywide Planning Policies and make any changes that it deems fit. Pending that discussion and the identification of any changes that are necessary, staff recommends that the Planning Commission move to recommend that the BOCC reaffirm the policies.