



Lewis Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Community Meeting – Salkum Timberland Library November 28, 2023

Meeting Summary

Attendees: 18

The meeting began with an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (see handout) and questions from the attendees. Then there was a facilitated workshop with the prompting question “What is your vision for Lewis County in 20-years?” Participants were asked to write 5-10 statements about what they hope Lewis County will be like in 2045, covering topics such as transportation, housing, land use, recreation, jobs, etc. Next, participants were asked to star the top 3 priorities. The participants paired up and shared their top 3 priorities. Together, each team was asked to agree on a combined 3 and write each priority on a notecard. These were shared with the whole group and organized, by the group, into topics. The results of the workshop are provided below. Finally, staff shared the next steps which are to produce notes from this meeting and each of the upcoming community meetings throughout the county and post them on the webpage. Attendees were encouraged to sign up to receive email notifications so they will find out when new meeting notes are posted. The information from all the meetings will be provided to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners and will be used by staff to inform updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

The results of the workshop are below in order of participants’ priorities. Under each priority topic are details or explanations provided by the participants; the bullet points are not in any hierarchical order.

1. Land Use

- Maintain rural character.
- Preserve small family farms.
- Make sure small, unincorporated communities (LAMIRDS) that have existing neighborhoods and services like schools are sustainable long term.
- Ensure that high density housing is provided in cities and urban growth areas, protecting rural areas for lower density housing that matches rural character.
- Ensure that tiny home parks are located in appropriate areas where there are adequate facilities and services.
- Growth locally owned, small businesses and prevent larger corporations from overtaking the unique character of Lewis County.

2. Economic Development

- Maintain and grow the timber industry.
- Remove barriers to keeping small farms in agricultural production.
- Provide excellent broadband everywhere in Lewis County to support new jobs, particularly in East Lewis County.
- Enhance Highway 12 as a Scenic Byway by encouraging protection of farms and forests, and encourage development that creates a visually appealing drive and supports tourism.
- Balance new jobs with rural character by ensuring that new employment centers are based on rural economies (e.g., farms, tourism) and scaled appropriately.
- Ensure that new green energy facilities provide economic benefit to Lewis County residents.

3. Housing

- Provide housing that meets the needs of the community.
- Increase the amount and diversity of affordable housing options.
- Provide senior housing options in East Lewis County.
- Encourage new housing developments to be located away from major transportation corridors or screened/buffered from transportation corridors using trees and shrubs.

4. Infrastructure

- Ensure that public facilities and services (e.g. fire districts, EMS, school districts, etc.) plan for and can support new rural development.
- Support and grow rural schools and educational opportunities.
- Increase policing services in East Lewis County.
- Provide more trash removal on county roads.

5. Recreation and Environment

- Maintain and improve recreational facilities, particularly facilities like Riffe Lake that are critical to tourism and the local economy.
- Support and increase local events and festivals.
- Protect natural resources and maintain habitat for wildlife.

6. Natural Hazards

- Complete flood control measures that have been under discussion for many years.
- Increase flood protection and mitigation throughout the County.

7. Transportation

- Provide transportation options for seniors, people with disabilities and others.
- Work with the Federal Department of Transportation to add a third lane to Interstate 5.

Other ideas

- Less "red tape" across the board so it is easier for people to do the development and land use they want to do.
- Provide an all-encompassing housing and treatment facility for homeless residents.



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