



Family Burial Grounds

Planning Commission – Workshop 2

07/14/2026

Agenda

- Bulk Regulations
- Permit Review Process
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Area
- Subdivision Requirements
- Next Steps



Bulk regulations

- Min 25 feet from any parcel boundary.
- Min 100 feet of the property line of a public ROW or easement.
- 150 feet from critical areas, or min buffer whichever is greater.
- 100 feet from a drinking-water well.
- 200 feet from a drinking-water spring.



Bulk regulations

- Allow only in RDD 5, 10 & 20, ARL and FLR.
- Maximum burial grounds area not to exceed 10% of the total lot area or 10,000 square feet which ever is less.
- Demarking the area with appropriate fencing and signage as determined by the property owner.
- Allow FBG on property owned by Family Trust.



Bulk regulations

- Prohibit crematoriums including temporary or one-time on-site cremation activities.
- Human remains must not be visible from any public right-of-way or adjoining parcel under different ownership.
- The family burial ground must be surveyed and recorded with the Auditor.



Permit Review process

- **Previous workshop:** Reviewed permit options based on proposal characteristics (at-grade burial areas vs. structures).
- **Original approach:** Administrative review for at-grade burial areas. Special Use Permit for above-grade burial structures or crematories.



Permit Review process

Updated recommendation:

- Limit burial structures to **10 feet** in height.
- Process family burial grounds through **Master Site Plan Review**.

Benefits:

- Objective review with clearly defined approval criteria.
- Eliminates neighbor notification and discretionary public hearings.
- Reduces permitting costs and shortens review timelines.



Critical Aquifer Recharge Area

Category I Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs)
Allow or prohibit burials?

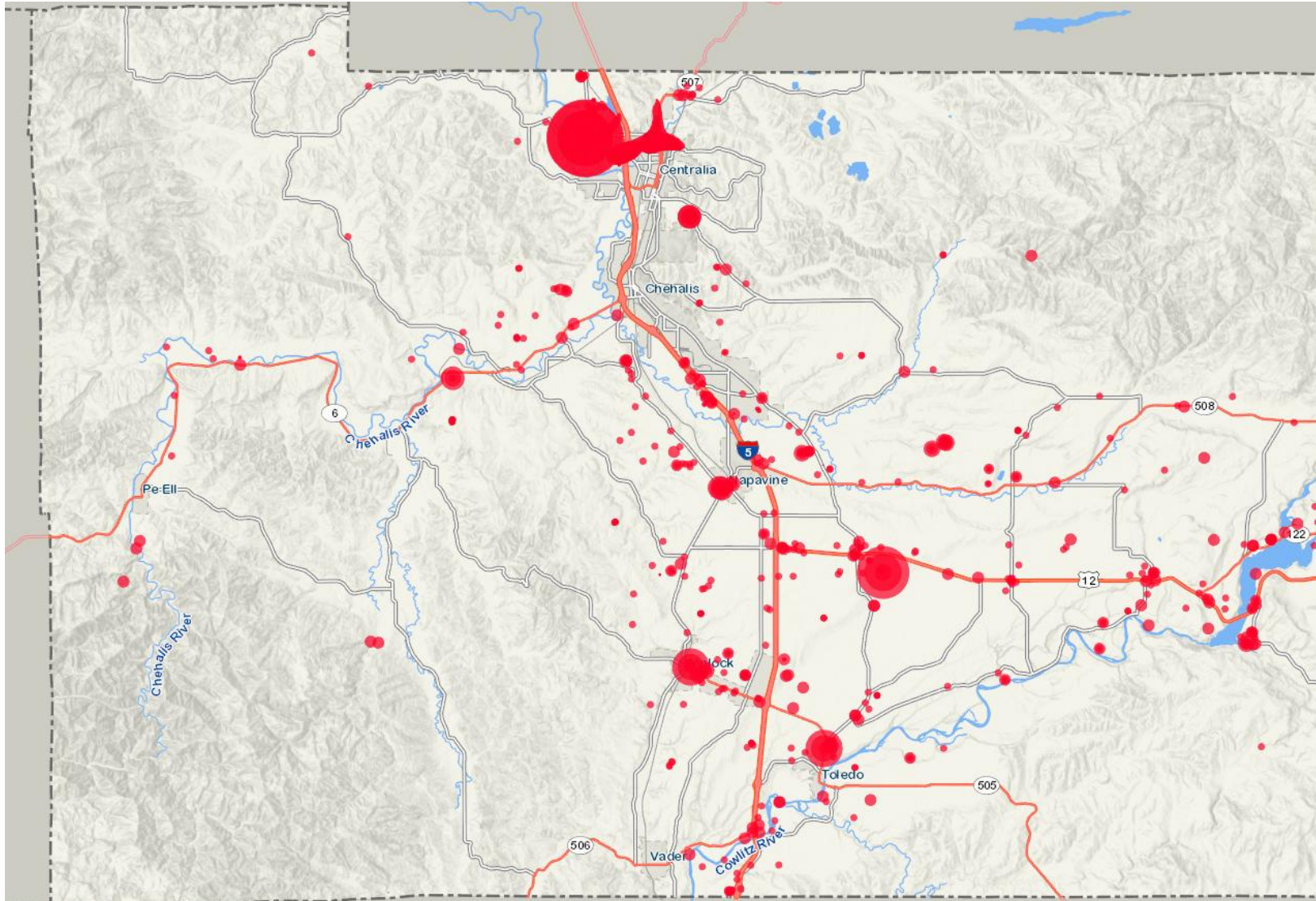


Critical Aquifer Recharge Area



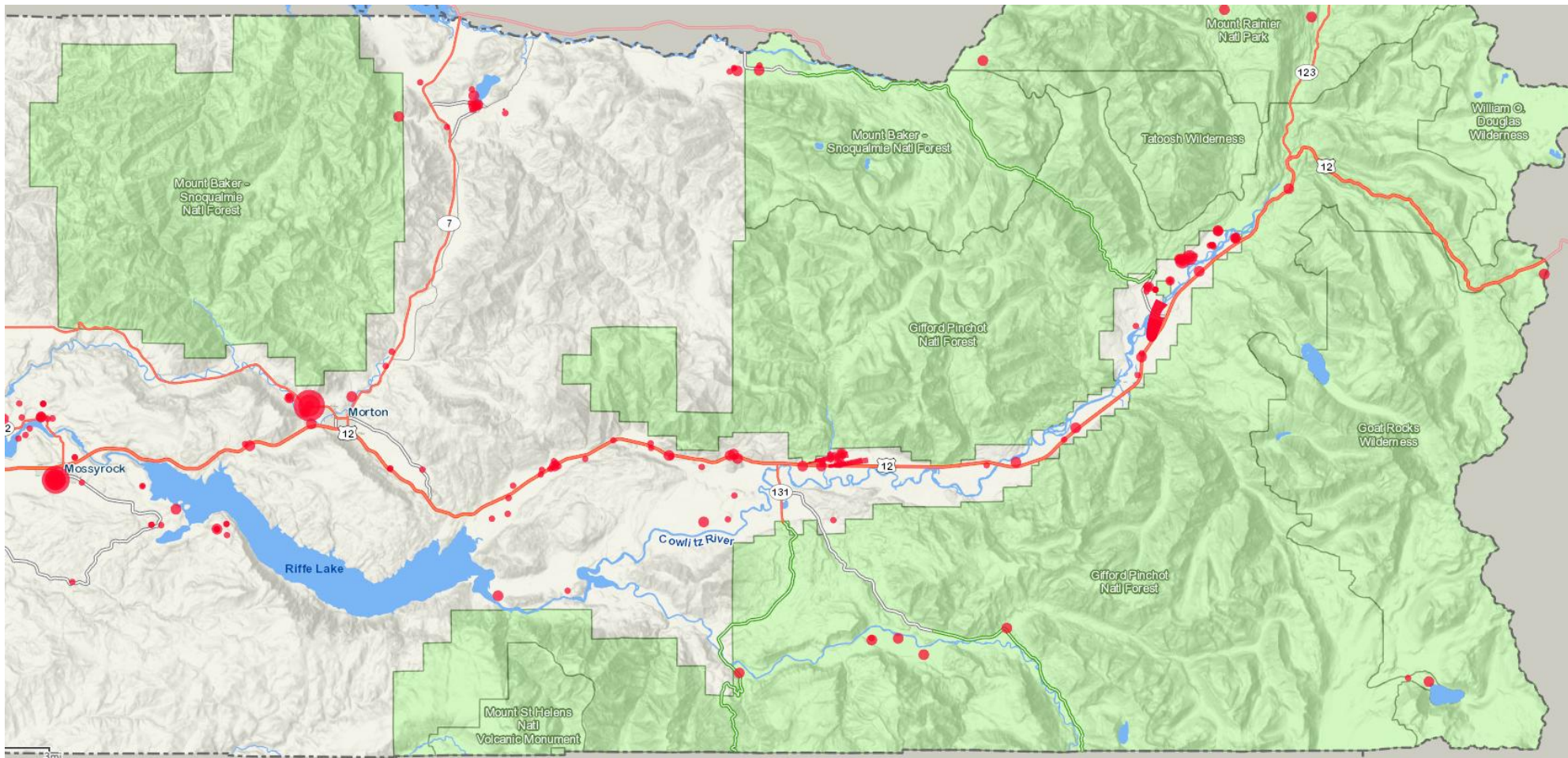
Category 1 CARA

Critical Aquifer Recharge Area



 Category 1 CARA

Critical Aquifer Recharge Area



● Category 1 CARA

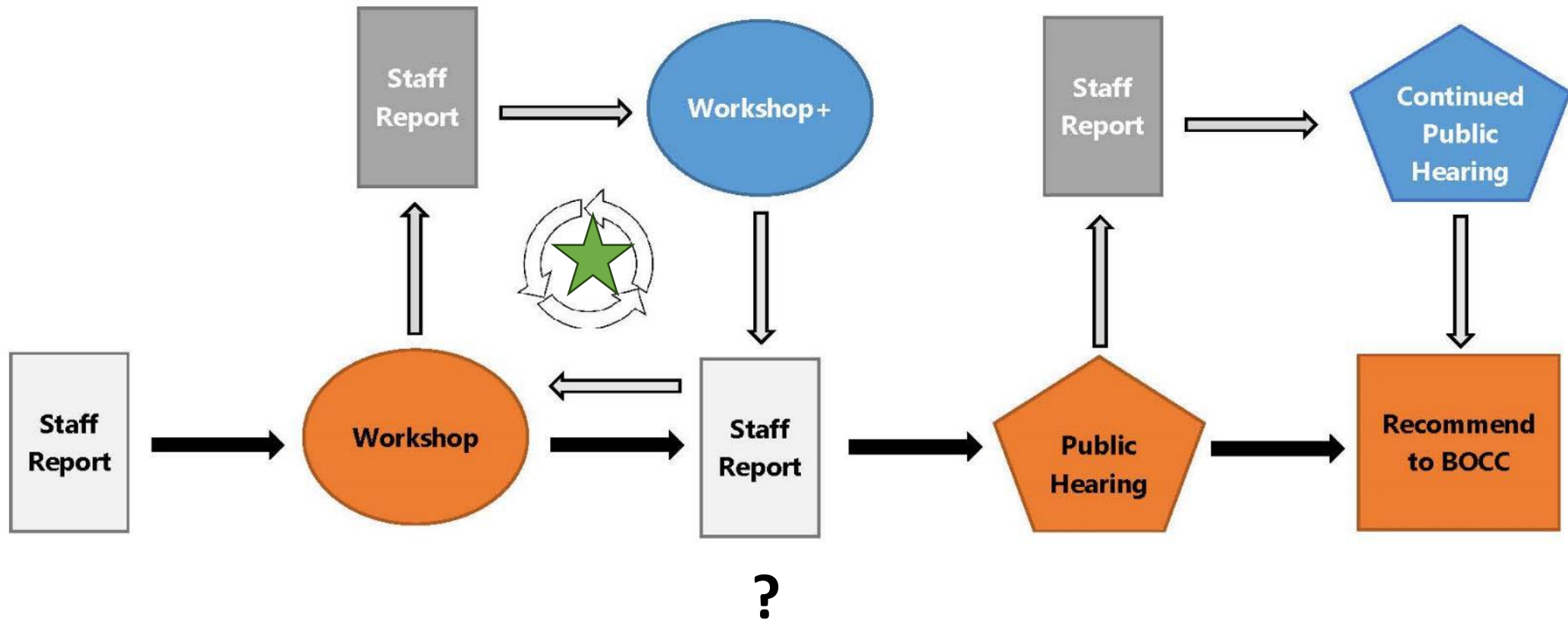
Subdivision Requirements

- Where a subdivision contains an established family burial ground, the family burial ground shall be depicted on the final plat within a designated easement. ~~Access easements serving the family burial ground may be dedicated to the owners of the residual lots and shall connect to the subdivision's common access easement or a public right-of-way.~~
- Appropriate fencing & signage
- Plat notes including grading restriction in burial grounds



Next Steps

PLANNING COMMISSION PROCESS FLOW CHART





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Project Website: Family Burial Grounds

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/community-development/comprehensive-plan-and-development-regulation-amendments/family-burial-grounds/>

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