

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 9**

**Re:** Adoption of text amendment (CPA 2021-084) to the Chelan County Comprehensive Plan

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**WHEREAS**, Chelan County adopted a Comprehensive Plan per the requirements of RCW 36.70A.040(4)(d), the Growth Management Act, on December 19, 2017, last amended by Resolution 2021-32; and

**WHEREAS**, for the Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment (file no. CPA 2021-084) to integrate non-regulatory climate resilience strategies into the goals and policies, including updates to existing policies and new policy additions for Chelan County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chelan County Planning Commission held a duly advertised public hearing on November 17, 2021, to consider the proposed amendment and public comment, and make a recommendation to the Board of Chelan County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chelan County Commissioners conducted a work session on December 21, 2021, to review the proposed amendments for adoptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chelan County Commissioners conducted duly advertised public hearings on December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022, to examine the record and file of the Chelan County Planning Commission and invite public testimony for or against the proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chelan County Commissioners found that:

### **FINDINGS OF FACT:**

1. Chelan County adopted Title 14, Development Permit Procedures and Administration outlining provisions relating to the amendment of the Comprehensive Plan consistent with RCW 36.70A. The County followed the procedures required for amendment of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), Chelan County Comprehensive Plan and Chelan County Code outline provisions related to the adoption and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The County used the applicable guidelines and regulatory review criteria for the amendment.
3. RCW 36.70A.210 requires that the Comprehensive Plan be consistent with the provisions of the adopted County-Wide Planning Policies.
4. The requirements of RCW 43.21C, the State Environmental Policy Act, and WAC 197-11 SEPA Rules have been satisfied. To comply with the requirements of the

State Environmental Policy Act for environmental review of a non-project action, the County, as lead agency issued a Determination of Non-significance for the properties on September 16, 2021.

5. The required State agency review with the Department of Commerce (COM) and other State agencies was initiated on June 9, 2021, under submittal ID no. 2021-S-2765, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106.
6. Any Finding of Fact that is more correctly a Conclusion is incorporated herein as such by this reference.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

1. The amendment to the Chelan County Comprehensive Plan is consistent with the Chelan County Comprehensive Plan and County-Wide Planning Policies, and to some extent, consistent with Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A).
2. The amendments are necessary to address a public land use issue or problem.
3. The amendment does not adversely affect designated resource lands of long-term commercial significance or designated critical areas in ways that cannot be mitigated.
4. Reviewing agencies and the general public were given an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment.
5. The amendments are consistent with Chelan County Code Title 14 Development Permit Procedures and Administration.
6. The requirements of RCW 43.21C, the State Environmental Policy Act, and WAC 197-11 SEPA Rules have been satisfied.
7. Any Conclusion that is more correctly a Finding of Fact is incorporated herein as such by this reference.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Chelan County Commissioners hereby adopts Chelan County Comprehensive Plan text amendment, CPA 2021-084 with Attachment "A".

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect and be in force on January 11, 2022.


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this decision is hereby signed into authentication on the following date,

**Dated** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

BOARD OF CHELAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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KEVIN OVERBAY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: CARLYE BAITY

  
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TIFFANY GERING, COMMISSIONER

  
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Clerk of the Board

  
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BOB BUGERT, COMMISSIONER



## CHAPTER 2 LAND USE ELEMENT

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Policy 3.1: Support data collection for water quality and quantity which can be used to evaluate land uses and development. Including but not limited to:

- Support the implementation of watershed plans to address water quantity and quality including instream flows. Continue to plan reserves for future population growth and track exempt well use.
- Improve County tracking and coordination efforts with public water providers.
- Evaluate the existing exempt well and reserve tracking system for expansion Countywide.
- Consider ~~varying regulations for different conditions in~~ each ~~WIRA-WRIA~~ or sub-basin ~~based on~~ regarding water quantity and quality concerns.
- For areas where physical availability is potentially limiting, support studies on safe sustaining yield of water in relation to planned growth.
- Support mitigation measures including infrastructure projects.
- Support analysis of water bank options, or other alternatives, where instream flow reserves are exhausted, or where there are concerns over legal or physical availability.
- Support development of outreach/educational materials to residents, interest groups and developers.
- Amend the County Comprehensive Plan to reflect new data and revise land uses as appropriate.
- Water source priorities are as follows, in order of priority:
  1. Connection to an existing public water system where available;
  2. Where a public water system is not available, implementation of a new public water system consistent with DOH and CDHD requirements; and
  3. Individual well outside the service of a public water system.

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Policy LU 3.7: Promote municipal and agricultural water conservation and efficiency efforts in watersheds to manage water demand.

Rationale: Due to climate change, the most consequential change to water supply will be a shift in the timing of natural water availability throughout the year, which may create challenges for adequate water supply when water demand is greatest.

Policy LU 3.8: Allow for water storage near sources to address low stream flow, flooding, firefighting, and water supply needs consistent with watershed plans and development regulations.

Rationale: Due to climate change the water availability timing may change and alter how to provide an adequate water supply when water demand is greatest. Review watershed plans and other irrigation and water district plans for potential strategies and solutions.

Policy LU 3.9: Compatible with state and health district rules, allow for greywater systems and promote water re-use.

Rationale: Greywater could be used for irrigation to conserve potable water.

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**Goal LU 12: Encourage development and maintenance of recreational facilities and opportunities to meet the needs of residents and visitors.**

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Policy LU 12.4: Improve and promote the range of weather-independent and all-season tourism and recreation opportunities.

Rationale: Anticipated changes in temperature and precipitation are expected to affect availability of winter and summer recreation and tourism, e.g. shorter winter recreation periods and less summer water availability. Adaptation to seasonal conditions would be important to the local economy.

## CHAPTER 4 RESOURCE ELEMENT

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Policy AL 1.10: Through the Voluntary Stewardship Program and other programs, encourage agricultural producers to implement sustainable farming practices anticipating future climate conditions, address adequate water supply and conservation, voluntarily implement ecological enhancements in climate vulnerable areas, and other strategies.

Rationale: Soil health strategies, water conservation, cover crops and no till farming, and other conservation practices can improve resilience to climate change.

### V. Chelan County Forest/Timber Lands

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#### *Land Use Designation/Siting Criteria: Commercial Forest Lands*

The growth management process requires identification of forest lands of long-term commercial significance as part of the growth management process. The identification of these lands is an attempt to conserve and encourage existing and future forest practice land uses as a viable, permanent land use and a significant economic activity within the County. Forest land also provides recreational opportunities, scenic value and wildlife habitat. In addition, the identification and land use regulations of the commercially significant forest lands will provide protection for forest lands from encroachment and incompatible land uses. The Growth Management Act defines "long term commercial significance" to include 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.

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## Wildfire and Resilience

Washington and Chelan County specifically have experienced several large wildfires in recent years uncharacteristic in terms of the acreage that burned at high severity, and significant in terms of impacts to the livelihoods and resources of affected communities. Trends of increasing wildfire activity are due to a combination of factors including population growth and development in the wildland-urban interface, a legacy of forest management, and warmer and drier summers that lead to drier fuels (i.e., live and dead vegetation). Wildfire activity is expected to increase across central and eastern Washington as temperatures continue to increase.

Fire-adapted communities are defined as “a knowledgeable, engaged community where actions of residents and agencies in relation to infrastructure, buildings, landscaping and the surrounding ecosystem lessen the need for extensive protection actions and enable the community to safely accept fire as part of the surrounding landscape.”<sup>1</sup>

The County, State, and Special Districts are working to build resilience to a changing wildfire season and more wildfires with plans and activities including:

- Chelan County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, 2020
- Chelan County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2020
- Chelan County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2018-2019
- Chelan County and cities’ Wildland Urban Interface Codes addressing roofs, vegetation, etc.
- Chelan County Public Utility District, fire hardening efforts (pole materials, vegetation management, paint, etc.)
- Fire Districts education and support for community and homeowner wildfire preparedness
- Cascadia Conservation District Wildfire Preparedness & FirewiseUSA® education materials, wildfire risk assessments, etc. to help build homeowner and community resilience to wildfire
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan
- Washington State DNR, 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for Eastern Washington

From these plans and efforts, this Comprehensive Plan includes a goal and policies to address the County’s role in coordinating emergency management, managing land use, and partnering with other entities to promote forest conservation and management to protect and respond to wildfires.

### *Forest/Timber Resource Lands: Goals & Policies*

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Policy FL 1.7: Use the permit review process to promote implementation of forest management practices that minimize the potential for catastrophic wildfires. In partnership with state and federal agencies and

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<sup>1</sup> See Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network, Frequently Asked Questions:  
[https://fireadaptednetwork.org/about/frequently-asked-questions/.](https://fireadaptednetwork.org/about/frequently-asked-questions/)

property owners, proactively address fire resiliency through activities such as: pre-fire monitoring, forest treatment, thinning, prescribed fire, and managed natural fire.

Rationale: The potential for catastrophic forest fires ~~as in 1994~~ should be reduced. Coordination with other state and federal entities is necessary as most forest land is in federal or state hands. The Community Wildfire Protection Plan addresses several resiliency efforts.

Policy FL 1.8: Recognize state and national forest lands and orchard lands accommodate carbon sequestration, having a positive effect on carbon emissions in the region.

Rationale: Chelan County contains extensive forest lands and agricultural lands that can absorb carbon emissions.

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**Goal FL 3: Build community resilience and support forest management that reduces and responds to wildfire risk.**

Policy FL 3.1: In partnership with state and local entities, build awareness of increasing wildfire risk, encourage wildfire preparedness, and create fire adapted communities.

Rationale: Chelan County can play a role in sharing information and coordinating strategies to prepare communities for resilience to wildfires. The Chelan County Community Wildfire Protection Plan identifies area-specific wildfire preparation and protection strategies.

Policy FL 3.2: Enhance safety ~~develop fire safe places~~ in fire prone areas through wildland urban interface policies and codes.

Rationale: Chelan County implements fire and building standards as new or altered development is proposed, and continues to monitor and apply newer codes to development in hazard areas.

Policy FL 3.3: Work with partners to integrate climate preparedness into hazard response plans. Coordinate emergency preparedness systems, increase early detection capabilities and communication. Respond to emerging health and safety threats. Assist the most vulnerable people and communities to prepare and respond to threats such as wildfires and flooding.

Rationale: The County Sherriff's Emergency Management Office produces the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) providing mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities for wildfire and other emergencies and provides it to a range of state, regional, and local agencies. The County develops the CEMP on behalf of the cities of Cashmere, Chelan, Entiat, Leavenworth, and Wenatchee through an interlocal agreement.

Policy FL 3.5: Work in partnership with federal, state, and local entities to test relevant forest management scenarios to understand combined benefits for fire fuels reduction, snowpack retention, summer streamflow, and water supply.

Rationale: Snowpack accumulation and melt rates are related to forest structure as well as climate. Forest management practices could increase snow water storage, change the timing of snowmelt, and support stream flow and fish habitat.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See Goeking, Sara and Torboton, David. Forests and Water Yield: A Synthesis of Disturbance Effects on Streamflow and Snowpack in Western Coniferous Forests. *Journal of Forestry*, 2020: [https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs\\_journals/2020/rmrs\\_2020\\_goeking\\_s001.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2020/rmrs_2020_goeking_s001.pdf).

## VI. Chelan County Natural Systems/Critical Areas

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### *Natural Systems: Critical Area Goals & Policies*

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Policy CL 1.4: Regulate development in floodplains to protect property and mitigate the loss of floodplain storage capacity.

Rationale: The loss of floodwater storage results in a potentially greater level of destruction to downstream properties from the resultant higher flood elevations and water flow velocities.

Policy CL 1.4.1: Improve flood warning and information dissemination. Assess risk management, and prepare for rapid response during the flood event.

Rationale: Climate change is expected to increase both the frequency and magnitude of floods in and around Chelan County. The Flood Control Zone District is tasked with flood warning and emergency response, but other agencies also support.

Policy CL 1.4.2: Evaluate and improve stormwater management and infrastructure for high-intensity rainfall events.

Rationale: As warming continues, a greater fraction of winter precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow, increasing winter runoff and streamflow volumes.

Policy CL 1.4.3: Seek funding for measures to protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats and ecosystem function to support resilience in response to flood events. Plan for post-flood replanting and restoration to increase infiltration and slow movement of water and to stabilize ecosystems.

Rationale: As a result of increased flooding, effects on habitat could include greater mortality of juvenile fish and eggs and reduced slow-water habitat.

Policy CL 1.4.4: Relocate, upgrade, or protect critical facilities from wildfire and flooding.

Rationale: Wildfire and floods can affect facilities and services important to emergency response. The County has mapped critical facilities in its [Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) and [Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan](#).

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Policy CL 1.18: Continue to build partnerships across state, federal, and local agencies to monitor and respond to climate changes and vulnerabilities in forested and shrub-steppe lands. Monitor exotic and invasive species and prioritize detection, control, and eradication. Coordinate ecological recovery programs for public and private areas subject to fire in forested and shrub-steppe lands.

Rationale: The effects of climate change could include habitat loss and more invasive species, especially in shrub-steppe ecosystems. Climate change also includes a higher risk of wildfire, and with that natural hazard, a need to recover habitat, reduce erosion, and restore ecological conditions.

Policy CL 1.19: Encourage watershed-scale community building to adapt to changing streamflow and snowpack within the watershed.

Rationale: Spring snowpack in the Washington Cascades has declined in recent decades and is expected to further decline with warming in the future. Watershed scale community building efforts



can help local communities understand and respond to the effects of changes to streamflow and snow pack. Community-building could address a range of resiliency measures such as: forest practices, riparian enhancement, restoration addressing stream temperatures and flow patterns, management of invasive or non-native aquatic species, irrigation efficiencies, and prioritization of water use as snowpack decreases. An example of community building is the Icicle Work Group, a joint effort between Chelan County and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Within these community building efforts, the County could develop priorities and strategies to proactively implement climate change adaptation measures for the most vulnerable and underserved populations.

Policy CL 1.20: Reduce impacts of climate change to aquatic systems through improvement of in-stream-habitats and floodplain connectivity.

Rationale: The effects of climate change on aquatic systems include warmer stream temperatures during low flow periods, reduced habitat quantity due to lower summer flows, reduced aquatic habitat quality, and more favorable conditions for invasive fish and other aquatic species.

Policy CL 1.21: Identify locations where changes in surface and groundwater flow due to climate change could result in new or greater releases of toxic substances to the environment.

Rationale: Through hazard management planning the County can identify locations at risk of toxic release due to larger floods, erosion, or fire.

### *Natural Systems: Air Goals & Policies*

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Policy NSL 1.1: Support future and ongoing air quality monitoring programs.

Rationale: Monitoring of air quality helps to determine the impacts of growth and development to air quality. Should air quality problems arise, determining the sources of air quality degradation, and educational and regulatory tools to maintain or improve air quality would be necessary. The State of Washington Department of Ecology monitors and track emissions to make sure levels of outdoor air pollutants meet federal and state air quality standards. Ongoing sources of emissions can include transportation, industry, commercial, agriculture, residential, and others. Air quality can also be affected during and after natural hazards like wildfire.

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Policy NS 1.4: Leverage funding with partners and facilitate proper placement of facilities that collect local climate data including precipitation, wind velocity, temperature, humidity, sunshine, etc.

Rationale: To support an understanding of snowpack, stream flows, wildfire risk, and other conditions important for climate resiliency, watershed planning, emergency management, etc. the County could support collection of local relevant data, including but not limited to, federal and state agencies adding stream gages, weather stations, SNOTEL, and other facilities on public lands including forest lands.

## CHAPTER 6 CAPITAL FACILITIES ELEMENT

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Policy CF 1.6.1: Water Systems: Support drought planning to increase water conservation, plant drought-tolerant species, and build awareness around individual risk from drought.

Rationale: The County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan addresses drought. The County can implement incentives for development to incorporate drought tolerant landscaping or other design features that conserve water.

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Policy CF 1.12 Solid Waste: Coordinate with other jurisdictions in the development of recycling programs to reduce waste and to protect the environment.

Rationale: Staff works closely with all regions of the state, particularly the central and eastern counties. Forming a coalition for a voice of continued state support allows all the Chelan County to provide innovative approaches to solid waste disposal. Consistent with Chelan County Code, Chapter 13.20 promoting and expanding recycling programs, purchasing policies, and employee education can reduce the amount of waste produced and support climate goals.

Policy CF 1.14.1 Solid Waste: Within the priorities of the Chelan Solid Waste Management Plan allow for effective waste-to-energy technologies.

Rationale: Per the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, when used with an energy recovery system, incineration can also produce steam and/or electricity for sale. This can help the County meet its climate policies in Chelan County Code Chapter 13.20.

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Policy CF 1.27 Public Buildings and Facilities: Encourage and incentivize energy audits policies and the use of energy conservation design strategies in new construction and the rehabilitation of public facility structures.

Rationale: Energy conservation design strategies for public facilities will help to conserve resources and maintain budgets within anticipated available funding capacities.

## CHAPTER 7 UTILITY ELEMENT

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Policy UE 3.6 Countywide: Promote development which recognizes and efficiently utilizes renewable sources of energy like hydropower.

Rationale: Chelan County is a region with an abundance of renewable hydroelectric energy sources.

## CHAPTER 11 TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

### V. Goal 5 – Environmental Stewardship

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5.4 Consider refinements to roadway design standards so as to minimize impacts on hydrologic systems, including surface and groundwater quality.

- Improve transportation and stormwater infrastructure where needed for high intensity rainfall or flood events, e.g., enlarging bridge crossings.
- Evaluate transportation networks. ~~Remove or redesign roads that disrupt floodplain function or intercept precipitation and ground water and accelerate its movement into stream systems.~~
- Consider applying culvert design standards that address fish passage, stream functions and processes, floodplain function, and climate change effects.