

Minutes for Planning Commission, October 5, 2004

Present: JDH, SJ, KW, JH, JS; Staff: MF; Guests: Shannon Donovan, David Hall, Chris Looney, and David Sarff (Palouse Prairie Foundation)

Meeting: The regular meeting of the Latah County Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman John D. Hunt on Tuesday October 5, 2004 at 5:35 PM in room 2B of the Latah County Courthouse. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read.

Members of the Palouse Prairie presented language concepts for a sensitive lands overlay for the Latah County land use ordinance that they had assembled from other counties' ordinances. They also described a variety of partial inventories of sensitive lands that exist or are in process of being compiled. Their presentation included a brief overview of data sources to use to support the overlay concept, for example, the National Agriculture Imagery Program, digital orthophotos, digital U.S.G.S. orthophotoquads, Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer, Gap Analysis Program mapping, IKONOS digital imagery, Idaho Conservation Data, and local expert knowledge. A discussion ensued concerning ongoing projects to complete a county-wide inventory of sensitive land types. Sensitive lands in the definition used in the suggested draft language included the following.

1. Native plants and plant communities
 - Palouse prairie
 - Aspen groves
 - Camas meadows
 - Old-growth ponderosa pine stands
 - Douglas hawthorn communities
 - Riparian corridors
2. Special soil and geologic conditions
 - Mima mounds (patterned ground)

The group suggested that the Latah Planning Commission consider adopting language into the current draft land use ordinance, reserving implementation of the section pending completion of a county-wide inventory.

The PC agrees that sensitive lands language needs to be addressed for Latah County. However, absent a county-wide inventory, lack of sufficient public discourse on the topic, and deficient review of draft language preclude responsible adoption into the ordinance at this time. This topic should become a priority issue for consideration after the current ordinance language goes through the adoption process.

The PC reviewed amendments and edits to the draft ordinance completed to date.

SJ reminded the PC and staff about structural editing of the draft ordinance to make it more readable and easily used by the public. SJ volunteered to prepare a structurally edited draft for the PC to review.

Respectfully submitted by substitute recorder Janet Hohle, 26 October 2004.