

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE LATAH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 2, 2015
5:30 p.m.

As per Idaho Code 67-6509 the Latah County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in Room 2-B of the Latah County Courthouse, 522 S. Adams, Moscow, Idaho, to receive comments on:

Amending the Latah County Comprehensive Plan, Resolution #2010-32, as follows: Add a reference in the “Transportation” element to the Highway District plans, add new sections titled “Agriculture”, “Public Airport Facilities”, and “National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors”, and update the inventories including adding a section on agriculture.

A full copy of the proposal is located below. Written comments will be accepted at the above office prior to the public hearing.

Interested parties are encouraged to attend. Accommodations for individuals who qualify under the ADA are available upon request. Notice to acquire accommodations must be made 3 working days prior to the hearing to the Planning Dept. This hearing will be held pursuant to the Latah County Hearing Procedures Ordinance and under authority of the Idaho Local Land Use Planning Act.

The following are proposed modifications to the Latah County Comprehensive Plan – Resolution #2010-32. The purpose of these modifications is to update the inventories, add elements required by Idaho Code, and insert a reference to the plans set out by the Highway Districts.

1. The following language is added to the goals section of Element #7 “7. TRANSPORTATION”:

The transportation plans for the North and South Latah Highway Districts can be found at www.latah.id.us/pb

2. The following elements are added to the plan:

16. AGRICULTURE

Goals:

1. Foster agriculture and forestry and their supporting activities and businesses.
2. Protect agricultural and forestry land from scattered development.

3. Preservation of agricultural and forest land uses to ensure the continued viability of an agricultural and forest based economy in rural Latah County.
4. Preservation of the rural character of Latah County, of which agriculture and forestry are key elements.
5. Protect agriculture and forestry from conflicting uses.
6. Provide for agriculture and land uses consistent with agriculture
7. Provide for agriculture and forestry to ensure the economy of Latah County stays sound
8. To encourage agriculture and forestry economic diversification consistent with other goals and policies of this plan.
9. Promote the perpetual viability of adequate water resources in Latah County to meet present and future needs.

Policies:

1. Encourage low density residential development to occur in a pattern which minimizes conflicts with agriculture and forestry.
2. Limit higher density residential development to areas easily served by infrastructure and public services.
3. Discourage high density development where it would conflict with agriculture, forestry or existing commercial activity.
4. Direct growth away from areas with agriculture and forestry operations which will be negatively impacted by development.
5. Encourage growth to occur in existing cities or areas likely to be annexed into existing cities.
6. Encourage agricultural and forestry diversification and experimentation, and “value added” industries.
7. Encourage local and regional food self-sufficiency.
8. Where appropriate, incorporate farming and forestry into planned developments as open space or buffer zones.
9. Protect farm and forest lands due to their natural significance.
10. Discourage use of groundwater for irrigation consistent with the philosophy of Idaho Code 67-6537 and require that agriculture and forestry uses are consistent with any applicable water resources plan, such as the adopted Palouse Basin Aquifer Ground Water Management Plan.

17. NATIONAL INTEREST ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS –

After notification by the public utilities commission concerning the likelihood of a federally designated national interest electric transmission corridor, the Federal Government shall prepare an analysis showing the existing location and possible routing of high voltage transmission lines, including national interest electric transmission corridors based upon the United States department of energy's most recent national electric transmission congestion study pursuant to sections 368 and 1221 of the energy policy act of 2005. "High-voltage transmission lines" means lines with a capacity of one hundred fifteen thousand (115,000) volts or more supported by structures of forty (40) feet or more in height. Latah County will at that time consider the analysis as it relates to the Latah County Comprehensive Plan and the impacts said lines will have on Latah County and its citizens.

18. PUBLIC AIRPORT FACILITIES --

The county air travel needs are served primarily by the Pullman-Moscow Airport located in Washington, 8 miles west of Moscow. Other airports offering commercial services are located in Lewiston, Idaho, and Spokane, Washington. There are also several private airstrips throughout the county.

In 2014 the City of Moscow and the City of Pullman signed an agreement titled "Joint Operating Agreement For The Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport". This agreement is set forth by the City of Moscow and the City of Pullman for the purposes of financing, constructing, improving, and operating an airport through the agency of the Pullman–Moscow Regional Airport Board. The Moscow-Pullman Airport, as set forth in the Joint Operating Agreement, is supported by Latah County in as much as Latah County resident (who may be a representative of the Commissioners of Latah County) shall be appointed by the City of Moscow to serve on the Pullman–Moscow Regional Airport Board. Other members of the Board include the Mayor of the City of Pullman, a representative of the President of Washington State University, a resident of the City of Pullman, a resident of Whitman County (who may be a representative of the Port of Whitman), the Mayor of the City of Moscow and a resident of the City of Moscow. The master plan for the Moscow-Pullman Regional Airport can be found at www.flypuw.com

3. The following inventories are updated adding the 2010 census information as shown below:

INVENTORY OF LATAH COUNTY

Total Population

	2010	2000	1990	1980	80-90 % Change	90-00 % Change	00-10 % Change
Latah County	37244	34935	30617	28749	+6.5%	14.1%	6.6%
Bovill	260	322	256	289	-11%	25.8%	-19.3%
Deary	506	551	529	539	-1.9%	4.2%	-8.2%
Genesee	955	965	725	791	-8.3%	33.1%	-1.0%
Julietta	579	601	488	522	-6.5%	23.2%	-3.7%
Kendrick	303	401	325	395	-17%	23.4%	-24.4%
Moscow	23809	21207	18519	16513	+11%	14.5%	12.3%
Onaway	187	245	203	254	-20%	20.7%	-23.7%
Potlatch	804	781	790	819	-3.5%	-1.1%	2.9%
Troy	862	777	699	820	-15.7%	11.2%	10.9%
Unincorporated	8979	9085	8083	7807	+3.5%	12.4%	-1.2%

HOUSING

	1990	2000	2010
Number of Households	11,229	13,838	14635
Persons per Household	2.45	2.38	2.81
Percent Change	80-90	90-00	00-10
Percent Change 1990-2000	9.5%	23.3%	5.6%
Owner Occupied	56%	58.7%	54%
Median Dollar Value	\$63,500	\$126,500	\$183,800
Rentals			46%
Median Rent	\$314.00	\$469.00	634
Substandard Housing*	2.8%	1.7%	1.2%

* Overcrowded or lacking complete plumbing facilities; 2010 lacking complete plumbing and complete kitchen.

POPULATION TOTAL 2010

	Total	Male	Female
Overall	37244	15404	14454
0-17 years	7386	-	-
18-65 years	26243	13751	12492
65+ years	3615	1653	1962

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT 2010

	K-8	9-12
Genesee	256	132
Kendrick	219	110
Moscow	2057	957
Potlatch	412	191
Troy	268	129
Whitepine	164	108

Employment Percent by Industry 2010

Civilian employed population 16 years and over	18,215	100.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	957	5.3%
Construction	1,028	5.6%
Manufacturing	943	5.2%
Wholesale trade	151	0.8%
Retail trade	2,065	11.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	468	2.6%
Information	243	1.3%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	601	3.3%
Professional, scientific, & management, & administrative & waste management services	1,357	7.4%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	7,182	39.4%
Arts, entertainment, & recreation, & accommodation & food services	1,882	10.3%
Other services, except public administration	696	3.8%
Public administration	642	3.5%
Government Workers	6254	34.3%
Median Household Income		\$36,974

4. The following is added to the list of “LATAH COUNTY SITES IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES” and that the list be renumbered to reflect the addition of this item:

DEARY VICINITY:

4. The Russell Lawrence Farmstead, 5471 State Highway 8, Deary, 30 November, 2011

5. The following “AGRICULTURAL ANALYSIS” is added to the inventories:

AGRICULTURE ANALYSIS

Latah County Idaho is home to the best dryland farming in the United States. This area is formally known as the Palouse. “The peculiar and picturesque silt dunes which characterize the Palouse Prairie were formed during the ice ages (Alt and Hyndman 1989). Blown in from the glacial outwash plains to the west and south, the Palouse hills consist of more or less random humps and hollows.

Early farming was extremely labor-intensive and relied heavily on human and horse-power. An organized harvesting/threshing team in the 1920s required 120 men and 320 mules and horses. Teams moved from farm to farm as the crops ripened. By this point, the combine had been invented and was in use, but few farmers had enough horses to pull such a machine, which required a crew of 40 horses and six men to operate on level ground. Because of this, use of combines on the Palouse lagged behind use in other farming communities in the United States.

It was only when the Idaho Harvester Company in Moscow began to manufacture a smaller machine that combine harvesting became feasible. By 1930, 90% of all Palouse wheat was harvested using combines.

The next step in mechanization was development of the tractor. As with the combines, the first steam engine and gasoline-powered tractors were too heavy and awkward for use on the steep Palouse hills. The smaller, general use tractors introduced in the 1920s were only marginally used. As a result, by 1930, only 20% of Palouse farmers used tractors.

Today, the Palouse region is the most important lentil-growing region in the USA.”¹ Latah County is the 1st largest producer in lentils and the 1st largest producer in all of Idaho for dry peas. The Idaho Pea and Lentil Council is located in Moscow.

“In fact, our growing conditions are so well suited to cool season pulses, we are able to produce some of the best quality peas, lentils and chickpeas in the world. In addition, our high-tech processing methods enable us to ship products that are consistent in size and color. Also, strict USDA grading standards help ensure that the customer receives what is promised. All of these factors combine to make Latah County a leading supplier of cool season pulses that sell at a premium over similar products from any other supplier, foreign or domestic.”²

Latah County is also the 3rd largest producer in Idaho for wheat grain. Latah County is one of the highest producing areas for dryland wheat in the nation – sometimes up to 110 bushels per acre.

A variety of local organizations work to strengthen the connection between local farmers and consumers. Livestock and poultry operations, small specialty dairies, plant nurseries, and small acreage vegetable and fruit producers continue to thrive in Latah County. Value-added local businesses and cottage industries use local and regional agricultural products. A longstanding weekly farmer’s market and a more recent grower’s market bring together local and regional vegetable, fruit, meat, cheese and egg producers with consumers.

The agriculture industry of Latah County includes advocacy groups, consultants, agriculture education, as well as agricultural equipment sales and repair, milling, storage, chemical, seed and grain sales and processing, farm and ranch suppliers, feed suppliers, fuel suppliers, processors, and University of Idaho Extension.

Statistics about Latah County agricultural activities can be found at www.agcensus.usda.gov

¹ Wikipedia: The free encyclopedia. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. 22 July 2004. Retrieved April 3, 2015 from <http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/palouse>

² Peter Klaiber, VP of Marketing, USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council