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Whatcom County P&DS

# Comment Card

Whatcom 2031

Please print legibly.

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Would you like someone to contact you?  Yes  No

If yes, what is the best way to contact you?  E-mail  Phone

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Please share your comments on the Comprehensive Plan Update. Thank you for your time and participation. For additional information, please visit [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds/2031) or e-mail [pds@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:pds@co.whatcom.wa.us)

My comments are on an attached page along with two maps of the area of concern to me, my family and neighbors.

Many of us are not wealthy people out there. We are long-time property owners who want to maintain our property in the best possible way.



Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the UGA proposals.

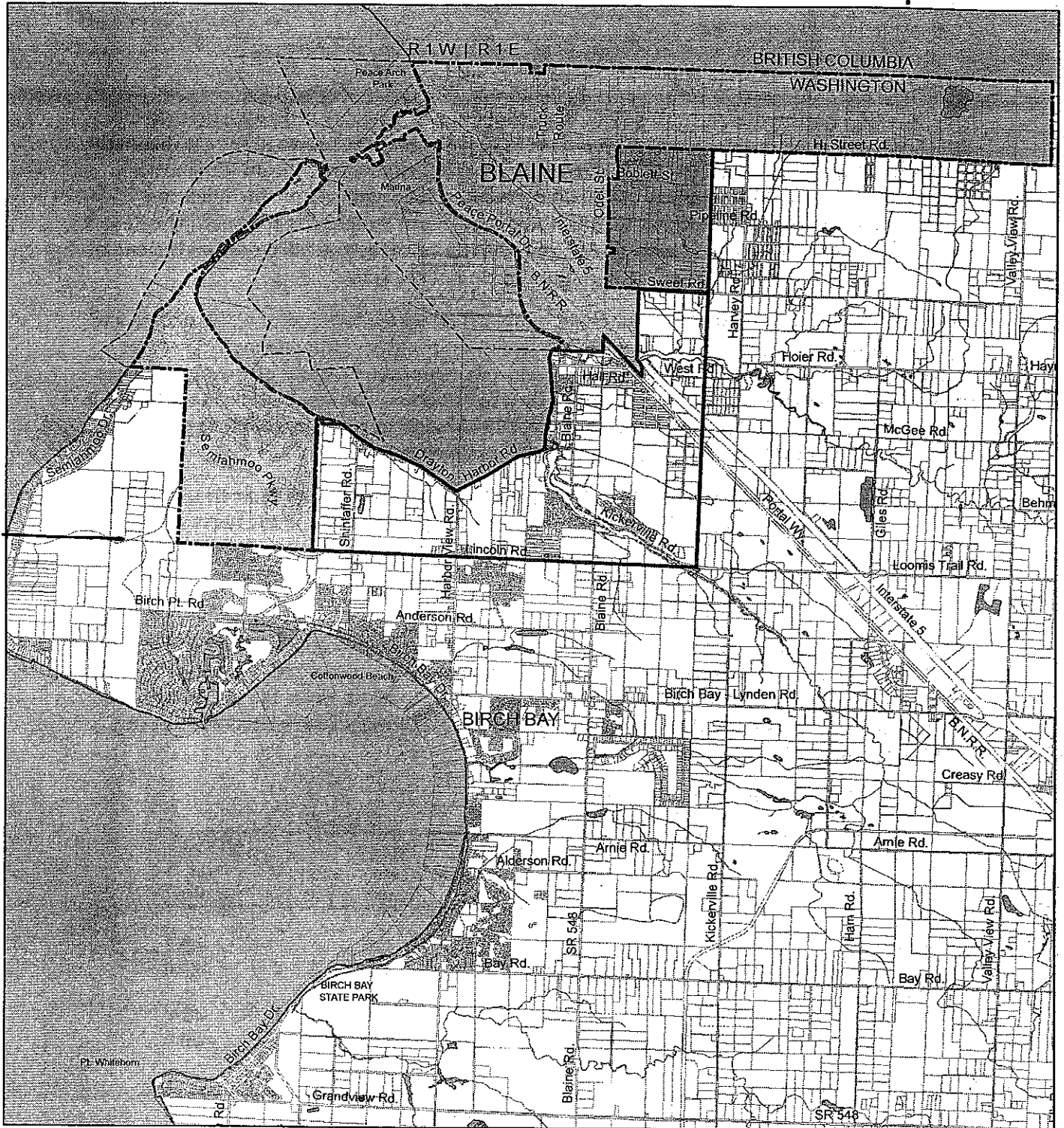
Remaining in the Semiahmoo West UGA with UR-4 zoning is very important to my family who has owned property there for 62 years. I have enclosed a map of residential areas that have been in existence for a long time. The area I am concerned about has many homes that depend on septic tanks for waste disposal. With the required septic tank inspection regulations throughout the county I am led to believe this is a concern. If this small area of existing neighborhoods is removed from the UGA and the zoning is changed, I am afraid the opportunity to have sewer connections will be lost for at least 20 years. I am told that if enough septic tanks fail, sewer connections could be made available even if we are not in the UGA. How **many** failing systems would it take? How **long** would they have to **wait** while still living in these affected homes?

My request is to keep this small outlined area (on the map) of established neighborhoods that border Blaine city limits to the north **separate** from the larger undeveloped area to the east.

I applaud your efforts to hold open houses and be available to answer questions throughout the County. I would have to disagree, however with the assumption that most people want to live in Bellingham in the future. I along with many others do not. Let's **keep** our existing residential area and allow us the opportunity to have **proper** sewage disposal.

Kathleen Rightmire





# - Blaine Urban Growth Area Proposal

Whatcom County  
Comprehensive Plan  
- August 2009

 Urban Growth Area

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0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

**Blaine**

Blaine is the northwestern-most city in Whatcom County. The city is divided by Drayton Harbor: central Blaine and the Semiahmoo area to the west. These two areas are distinctly different. The central area is a traditional northwestern city with a vibrant downtown surrounded by neighborhoods of single family houses. The central area includes an extension of largely undeveloped, incorporated land about 3 miles out H Street. The Resort at Semiahmoo occupies all of west Blaine and is made up of the central resort on the end of Semiahmoo spit and recreational community upland of the spit.

The city proposal presented to Whatcom County asked for a allocation of 4,700 people and 1,903 employees. The city's proposal recognized that the city's Urban Growth Area was vastly oversized for the foreseeable future. The city proposed removal of over 2,000 acres from the Urban Growth Area, largely along Drayton Harbor. The city believed that Blaine is a more appropriate location to allocate growth and should be given precedence over the unincorporated UGAs and rural areas of Whatcom County.

Executive Recommendation: The City of Blaine is to be commended for their timely and bold action to reduce their Urban Growth Area, focusing on removal of the most sensitive lands surrounding Drayton Harbor. However, due to past decisions, the city is still able to accommodate twice as much population in their city as their allocation request without having to grow into surrounding lands.

The area immediately east of the city along Odell Road south to Sweet Road should be included in the Urban Growth Area. This is a logical growth area for the city and will address the city's economic development goals. The area called "West Blaine" along Semiahmoo Drive is not warranted to be included in the Urban Growth Area at this time, and is not included in these recommendations.

**Table 13. Growth Allocation**

	Existing Conditions		Proposed			
	2008	Current Share of County	Allocation	Share of County Growth	Reserve Allocation	2029 Total (with Reserve)
<b>Population</b>						
City Proposal	4,667	1.4%	4,700	7.5%	-	9,367
Executive Recommendation			4,249	7.7%	-	8,916
<b>Employment</b>						
City Proposal	2,971	3.8%	1,903	5.4%	-	4,874
Executive Recommendation			1,903	5.7%	-	4,874

**Table 14. UGA Size**

	Existing UGA	City Proposal	Executive Rec.	Net Change
UGA (gross acres)	6,878	4,735	4,039	(2,839)