



Comprehensive Plan Amendment MRL Application Supplement

Date Received: _____ File #: _____

The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan contains criteria for designating Mineral Resource Lands (MRL). For Comprehensive Plan amendment applications to create or expand a MRL designation, please address the following criteria and questions, as applicable:

General Information – All applicants must complete this section.

Applicant Name _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # () _____

Email _____

Agent/Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone # () _____

Email _____

Please complete the questions below. Attach additional pages as needed

All applications

1. Non-metallic deposits must contain at least one million cubic yards of proven and extractable sand, gravel, or rock material per new MRL Designation.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

2. Minimum MRL Designation size is twenty acres.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

3. Expansion of an existing MRL does not need to meet criteria 1 or 2.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

4. MRL Designation status does not apply to surface mines permitted as an accessory or conditional use for the purpose of enhancing agriculture or facilitating forestry resource operations.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

5. All pre-existing legal permitted sites meeting the above criteria may be designated.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

6. The site shall have a proven resource that meets the following criteria:

- Construction material must meet current WSDOT Standard Specifications for common borrow criteria for road, bridge and municipal construction, or Whatcom County standards for other uses.
- Sand and gravel deposits must have a net to gross ratio greater than 80% (1290 cy/acre/foot).

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

7. MRL Designations must not be within nor abut developed residential zones or subdivisions platted at urban densities.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

8. MRL Designations must not occur within the 10 year zone of contribution for designated wellhead protection areas, as approved by the State Department of Health for Group A systems, and by the Whatcom County Health Department for Group B systems, in accordance with source control provisions of the regulations on water system comprehensive planning. MRL designations may be modified if a wellhead protection area delineated subsequent to MRL designation encompasses areas within a designated MRL. If a fixed radii method is used to delineate a wellhead protection area, the applicant may elect to more precisely delineate the wellhead protection boundary using an analytical model; provided, that the delineated boundary proposed by the applicant is prepared by a professional hydrogeologist; and further provided, that the delineated boundary has been reviewed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health for Group A systems, and by the Whatcom County Health Department for Group B systems. The hydrogeologist shall be selected by mutual agreement of the county, water purveyor, and applicant; provided, if agreement cannot be reached the applicant shall select a consultant from a list of no less than three qualified consultants supplied by the county and water purveyor.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

9. MRL Designation should not enclose by more than 50% non-designated parcels.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

10. Site-specific MRL designations shall only be approved after mineral extraction impacts have been anticipated and evaluated, and potential adverse environmental impacts have been addressed through appropriate mitigation and/or reasonable alternatives.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

11. MRL Designations must be reviewed for internal consistency with other parts of the comprehensive plan so that the MRL designation does not preclude achievement of other parts of the comprehensive plan.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

12. Expansion of MRL Designations to parcels contiguous to, and held by more than 1% common beneficial ownership or beneficial interest with an existing mine is allowed, but before extraction of the additional area may commence the existing mine must be in complete compliance with all operating permits and regulations.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

Additional Criteria for Designated Urban and Rural Areas

13. Abutting parcel size density must not exceed one unit per nominal five acres for more than 25% of the perimeter of the site, unless project specific mitigation is created.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

Additional Criteria for Designated Forestry Areas

14. Must demonstrate higher value as mineral resource than forestry resource based upon:

- soil conditions
- quality of mineral resource
- sustainable productivity of forest resource

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

Additional Criteria for Designated Agricultural Areas

15. Prohibit MRL designations in areas designated Agriculture by the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan that contain "Prime Farmland Soils" determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

Additional Criteria for River and Stream Gravel

- 16. MRL Designation status applies to river gravel bars possessing necessary permits and containing significant quality reserves.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

- 17. MRL Designation status may apply to those upland sites located in proximity to river gravel sources and used primarily for handling and processing significant amounts of river gravel.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

Additional Criteria for Metallic and Industrial Mineral Deposits

- 18. For metallic and rare minerals, mineral designation status extends to all patented mining claims.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

19. Mineral Resource Designation status extends to all currently permitted industrial mineral deposits of long-term commercial significance.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

20. All other non-patented mineral deposits must meet the non-metallic MRL Designation criteria, numbers 6 through 15, as applicable.

Explain how the proposal meets this provision:

Additional Questions

A. If the subject site contains a surface mine, when did the mining operation begin?

B. If the subject site contains a surface mine, is there an existing Department of Natural Resources reclamation permit?
If so, please submit a copy with the application.

C. What will the subsequent land use of the site be after mining is completed?

D. Are there any new wells or septic systems associated with the proposed Mineral Resource Land designation? If so, please show location on the map and indicate whether Health Department approval has been obtained.

Signature of Applicant(s) or Agent:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____