

Kittitas County Town Hall Summary



Across Landscapes

What characteristics of the community are you proud of?

- **Diversity of habitats, beautiful open spaces, and convenient access to recreational activities nearby to where people live.**
- **Strong, vibrant, and open community with a sense of history and origins. Our community is made up of independent people with healthy skepticism and openness.**
- **Long history of working lands, family ownership and a commitment to stewardship.**

What characteristics of the community worry you?

- **The amount and type of development may result in loss of public access as well as biological and visual fragmentation of working and natural lands.**
- **Poor water resource planning, such as unsustainable development, misuse and over allocation that may lead to a lack of clean water.**
- **The challenge of maintaining an independently-minded community without antagonism among stakeholders while planning for the future and addressing our rapidly changing economy and landscape.**
- **The threats that high operating costs and changing markets present to maintaining a viable agricultural economy, forestry economy and open space.**
- **The uncertainty and potential impacts surrounding upcoming decisions about wind power, fire management, taxes, and decisions made from outside of our community.**

What characteristics about the community do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Economically and ecologically sustainable communities that rely on good management of natural resources through locally based decisions, including maintaining lands and resources for future opportunities.**
- **Unique beauty, habitats, landscapes and native wildlife in our county.**
- **Public access to, proximity to, and recreational use of natural resources.**
- **A vibrant, involved, and engaged community with both rural and urban features.**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Provide for our economic and ecologic well-being over the long run by diversifying our economy, maintaining natural resources, and good planning.**
- **Protect our local identity and culture by connecting people to the land, wildlife, families, and our community.**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

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- **Careful, long-term planning for sustainable water management, viable forest and agriculture economies, sound community development, and conservation, while anticipating impending changes such as global warming.**
- **Success will depend on local decisions, partnerships, collaborative rather than adversarial relations among stakeholders, and environmental education**

Waters Landscape

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, are you proud of?

- **Kittitas county has a beautiful landscape of rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands**
- **Kittitas county has a strong, vibrant, and open community with a sense of history and origins**
- **Our community is made up of independent people with healthy skepticism and openness**

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, worry you?

- **The amount and type of development, such as second homes, may result in loss of public access, a cluttered landscape, as well as biological and visual fragmentation of working and natural lands**
- **Loss of family farms and ranches**
- **Poor planning for water use and development**
- **Lack of clean water due to development, misuse, and over allocation**
- **Lack of big picture and long-term view when planning for water usage**
- **With the change in the make-up of the population and changing economic dynamics we risk a change in values about water resource management and about the landscape generally**
- **Antagonism between members of the community**
- **Rules and regulations that conflict with good management of our water resources**

What characteristics about the community, especially the “Waters Landscape”, do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Water, fish, wetlands, wildlife, forests, clean air and starry skies**
- **Land for food production**
- **Public access**
- **Public transportation**
- **Conservation and environmental education**
- **Community involvement**

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- **Land use planning that considers population growth, development needs, and ecological concerns**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Provide for our economic well-being over the long run**
- **Employ ecological principles in water use (conservation, irrigation, and storage)**
- **Develop healthy ecological systems (wildlife corridors, water quality)**
- **Protect the cultural values of the people that use water and other natural resources**

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- **Protection and restoration of riparian areas, open spaces, biodiversity, clean water, and clean air**
- **Government support for good water management and the removal of regulatory impediments to sound resource management**
- **Collaboration of multiple parties rather than adversarial relations**
- **Sustainable economic development for agriculture and fisheries**
- **Support and encouragement of conservation through environmental education**

Cascades Landscape

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, are you proud of?

- **Kittitas county has unique, diverse, and intact landscapes and ecosystems**
- **Communities in Kittitas county have nearby publicly accessible natural resources**
- **Kittitas county is made up of diverse people and constituencies**
- **Kittitas county has a long history of working landscapes, and the connection of people to these lands**
- **Kittitas county has benefited from good management of its natural resources**
- **The communities have maintained a small town and rural atmosphere**
- **The area has a sense of openness and space – both in the landscape and in the communities**

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Cascades Landscape”, worry you?

- **Rampant, unsustainable and unplanned development**
- **Loss of access for people and connectivity between natural areas for wildlife**
- **Loss of natural resource based economics and employment**
- **Lack of water**
- **Over-use of recreational areas**

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- The uncertainty and potential impacts surrounding upcoming decisions about wind power, fire management, and taxes
- Conflicts between stakeholders that get in the way of finding mutually acceptable solutions
- The impact of management decisions that are made outside of our community

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- Wild lands, native species, natural migrations, natural views, and clear skies
- Public access to, proximity to, and recreational use of natural resources
- Viable agriculture and timber economies that do not rely on government generated incentives
- Economically and ecologically sustainable communities
- Long-term planning and management of water resources, ecological systems, development, transportation, and taxes

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- Enhance our recreation and tourism economy
- Retain valuable natural resources
- Maintain the rural and natural character of our community
- Maintain the identity of our local community
- Connect people to the land, wildlife, families, and our community
- Minimize the over-use and over-crowding of recreational lands

What are some of the important principles that should shape our community?

- Careful, long-term planning for sustainable water management, a viable timber economy, sound community development, and conservation, while anticipating impending changes such as global warming.
- Connectivity of natural areas for wildlife and people
- Protection of natural areas such as large tracts of forestland, water, and views
- Success will depend on local decisions, partnerships, and environmental education

Communities

What characteristics of the community, especially the “Communities Landscape”, are you proud of?

- People in Kittitas county have maintained a strong sense of community
- Kittitas county has a diversity of habitats, beautiful open spaces, and convenient access to recreational activities nearby to where people live
- Kittitas county has a long history of ranching , farming and family land ownership
- People in Kittitas county have a commitment to stewardship of our lands

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What characteristics of the community, especially the “Communities Landscape”, worry you?

- **Lack of planning for growth and development may lead to loss of open spaces and recreational opportunities due to economic pressures**
- **The challenge of maintaining an independently-minded community while planning for the future and addressing our rapidly changing economy and landscape**
- **The threats that high operating costs and changing markets present to maintaining a viable agricultural economy**

What characteristics do you wish to maintain for your grandchildren?

- **Clean air, long views, open spaces, and working forests**
- **The beauty of our community**
- **Good management of our natural resources based on locally-made decisions**
- **A vibrant city with small retail businesses, and places to live and visit**
- **Local food production, retail businesses, and health care**
- **Good economic development**

What steps do we need to take to improve the well-being of our community?

- **Enhance appreciation for the unique beauty, habitats, landscapes and native wildlife of our community**
- **Diversify our economy**
- **Provide good planning and growth management for our community**

**What are some important principles to this community?
(see above discussion)**