

**For Immediate Release** — July 18, 2006

Contact: Al Scalf  
Director  
Jefferson County Department of Community Development  
(360) 379-4450 or [ascalf@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:ascalf@co.jefferson.wa.us)  
[www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment)

## **Jefferson County sets timeline for wetland protection rules**

**Port Townsend, WA**—An updated timeline for the Planning Commission and public’s review of the proposed new county development rules aimed at protecting the environment has been released by Jefferson County.

To initiate the process, a workshop is set for Wednesday, Aug. 2, during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission at the WSU Learning Center at Shold Business Park in Port Hadlock. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will first address Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals followed by a presentation on the joint Port Townsend-Jefferson County Housing Needs Assessment. The critical areas workshop will begin around 7:30 p.m. The new schedule will be reviewed and a general question and answer period will be conducted.

“A Planning Commission committee will work with a group of stakeholders in a series of meetings over the coming months to review scientific information, draft revisions to the proposal, and frame those revisions in the context of the requirement in state law to consider ‘best available science,’” said Al Scalf, Director of the County’s Department of Community Development. “Upon completion of the committee work, the full Planning Commission will review the report as part of preparing a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.”

Representatives from the farming, building, realtor, property owner, and environmental communities will be invited to participate in the committee process. All committee meetings will be open to the public with dates listed on the County’s Web site. The committee is expected to deliver a report by the end of September.

The Aug. 2 Planning Commission workshop will be an opportunity for people to learn about the new timetable and process for the critical areas proposal and to ask questions of Planning Commissioners and county planning staff. The workshop will help County staff prepare a fact sheet with answers to frequently asked questions about Jefferson County's current and proposed regulatory protection of critical areas under Washington State's Growth Management Act.

A revised critical areas proposal is expected to go to the full Planning Commission in mid-November. After the Planning Commission holds a public hearing in December to gather input, it will forward its recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board will likely hold a second public hearing on the proposal in January before taking legislative action.

Information on the critical areas proposal is available online at [www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/CriticalAreas.htm](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/CriticalAreas.htm) or contact Josh Peters at 379.4466 or via e-mail at [jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us).

###