

SEPA Rules – WAC 197-11-970
Determination of Non-Significance

City of Forks Growth Management Act
Periodic Update of the City's Comprehensive Plan

Project

Proponent: City of Forks
by William R. Fleck
Attorney/Planner
500 East Division Street
Forks, WA 98331

**Description
of Proposal:**

In June or July of 2026, the City intends to adopt the mandatory periodic update to the City's Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan Update). This update was due to be adopted by 31 Dec 2025. However, the Comp Plan Update was submitted for review by State Commerce and other agencies late in 2025. This update will cover a twenty-year period from 2025 through 2045. The analysis of the Comp Plan Update covers the City of Forks and its associated GMA urban growth area referred to as the Forks Urban Growth Area (FUGA). The FUGA contains over 4,624 acres and the City of Forks occupies 52% of the FUGA.

The City is projecting that the Comp Plan Update will be before the Council for consideration and adoption in June or July 2026.

The proposed draft is 146 pages in its 'track changes' draft mode. The proposed consolidated draft is available in its edited format at:

Either this link of the City website - <https://forkswashington.org/notices/public-notice-3/> or directly at the link below.

<https://forkswashington.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-Forks-Comprehensive-Plan-11-March.pdf>

Subsequent modifications to both the Transportation chapter and the Utilities chapter have been made with both of those uploaded and accessible at the link above.

A brief summary of each updated element is as follows:

1. History of Forks. Updates were made to the Quileute Tribe portion of this chapter followed by including a section on the Hoh Tribe. Minor edits were made elsewhere with revisions made to the tourism portion of this element.
2. GMA Update. This chapter had significant updates that focused primarily on the legislative changes to the GMA associated with housing and efforts to address middle housing, as well as accessory dwelling units. Climate change and resiliency statutes are also summarized in this element.
3. The Environment chapter was updated to include information on earthquakes and tsunamis while also providing additional information on the four major rivers associated with the Quillayute River watershed. Other included parts of this chapter include flooding, wildlife, fish, wildlife habitat conservation, soil classifications,

- revised climate section, and critical areas overview. A new goal with policies was added regarding protecting Forks from associated loss from wildfire and damage.
4. A new chapter, Climate Changed and Resiliency, was added to comply with 2023 legislation requiring this element to be included in the Comp Plan Update. The element focused its analysis on these climate-exacerbated hazards: drought, extreme heat, extreme precipitation, flooding, reduced snowpack, and wildfire. Technical studies from the University of Washington's Climate Impact Group's Climate Mapping for a Resilient Washington tool was used to focus on these issues where cobenefits could be achieved in development regulations while reflecting the community's values. Goals and policies were developed for this element.
 5. The Economic development chapter was revised with minor changes in in the goals and policies occurring.
 6. The Land Use chapter was revised to incorporate the County's allocation of population growth for the both the City and the FUGA. Designated zoning for both were also analyzed. Residential buildable capacity was determined to be sufficient for the proposed allocation of population growth during the planning period. Policies were updated and new policies were added addressing wildfire damage and loss, as well as ensuring that equal protection of all people to ensure that they have access to a healthy environment and enjoy the same protection from environmental and health hazards.
 7. The Housing chapter was significantly rewritten to look at not only demographics, but The primarily to address future housing needs that would accommodate affordable housing for all economic segments of the City and FUGA. Future housing needs by income were reviewed in relationship to Clallam County's allocation of housing units. Housing needs were analyzed by housing types, incomes, and ownership. Accessory dwelling units, middle housing, and affordable housing needs and capacities were reviewed, and it was noted that Forks needed to ensure these types of housing solutions were available. Recommendations to include different types of housing were addressed and will be included in the required updated Development Regulations. Goals were updated to reflect this recommendation. Different housing types and approaches associated with housing needs are part of the draft updated Zoning Code. Off-street parking requirements will also be part of the updated Development Regulations which will also be adopted in July 2026.
 8. The Transportation chapter was updated to assess existing transportation systems. Transit information was updated and a collision history was provided using WSDOT information. Level of Service was analyzed for maximum buildout impacts. If such development were to occur roadways would see a decline in levels of service. However, maximum building out is highly unlikely as it would require all potential properties being developed into lots being created with an average size of 7,000 sq. ft. This would also exceed the project growth for the City and FUGA within the twenty-year planning horizon.
 9. The Community facilities chapter was updated to include major facilities including City, Fire, Quillayute Valley School District, Library, state offices, and the hospital facilities.
 10. The Parks chapter provides a brief overview of the park and recreation facilities available in the City and FUGA. It should be noted that the City is in the process of developing a separate Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan that would

assess existing facilities and develop a multi-year approach associated with improvements identified for those facilities.

11. The Utilities chapter provides an overview of the utilities within the City and the FUGA.
12. The Capital Facilities chapter summarizes the City's goals and policies for such facilities. The City undertakes an annual Capital Facilities Program to look at capital facility planning on a six-year basis. This is reviewed by the City Council and adopted prior to the annual budgeting process

Subject Areas: The City and the FUGA are located in the SW portion of Clallam County and are generally within Sections 32-33 T 29 N, R 13 W and Sections 8-10,16-18

Documents: Review draft, in markup format, is available at the link shared above.

Mitigation required: None.

The Lead Agency had determined that the above items would not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment if the mitigation noted above is completed. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2). This decision was made after review of a complete environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency and upon the following findings. This information is available to the public on request.


This DNS is issued under 197-11-340 (2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for a period of 14 days from the date of issuance to allow for review and comments from the general public.

Comments must be submitted to the City Planner at:

Rod Fleck, City Attorney/Planner
Forks City Hall
500 East Division
Forks, Washington 98331

Comments on this decision will be accepted up to 1 p.m., 27 April 2026. The City will review said comments together to determine the impact upon the DNS. Submittal of comments is not the same as a written appeal of this determination.

You may appeal this determination no later than 1 p.m., 27 April 2026, by filing a written appeal with the City Clerk of Forks at 500 East Division, Forks, Washington 98331. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections based upon the action being considered and the SEPA Checklist completed in association with this project. The appeal must be received prior to 1 P.M. Contact Rod Fleck at 360/374-5412, ext. 111 for more information on the procedures for appeals.



Date: 9 April 2026
William R. Fleck
Attorney/Planner

SEPA¹ Environmental Checklist

Purpose of checklist

Governmental agencies use this checklist to help determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant. This information is also helpful to determine if available avoidance, minimization, or compensatory mitigation measures will address the probable significant impacts or if an environmental impact statement will be prepared to further analyze the proposal.

Instructions for applicants

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Please answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. You may need to consult with an agency specialist or private consultant for some questions. **You may use “not applicable” or “does not apply” only when you can explain why it does not apply and not when the answer is unknown.** You may also attach or incorporate by reference additional studies reports. Complete and accurate answers to these questions often avoid delays with the SEPA process as well as later in the decision-making process.

The checklist questions apply to **all parts of your proposal**, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Instructions for lead agencies

Please adjust the format of this template as needed. Additional information may be necessary to evaluate the existing environment, all interrelated aspects of the proposal and an analysis of adverse impacts. The checklist is considered the first but not necessarily the only source of information needed to make an adequate threshold determination. Once a threshold determination is made, the lead agency is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the checklist and other supporting documents.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals

For nonproject proposals (such as ordinances, regulations, plans and programs), complete the applicable parts of sections A and B, plus the Supplemental Sheet for Nonproject Actions (Part D). Please completely answer all questions that apply and note that the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proponent," and "affected geographic area," respectively. The lead agency may exclude (for non-projects) questions in “Part B: Environmental Elements” that do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/Checklist-guidance>

A. Background

[Find help answering background questions²](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

GMA Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update 2025-2045

(Current Revised draft available here:

<https://forkswashington.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026-Forks-Comprehensive-Plan-11-March.pdf>

2. Name of applicant:

City of Forks

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Rod Fleck, 500 East Division Street, Forks, Washington 98331; 360/374-5412, ext. 111

(rodf@forkswashington.org)

4. Date checklist prepared:

3 March 2026

5. Agency requesting checklist:

SEPA required as part of the Comp Plan Updating process associated with the State Department of Commerce.

6. Proposed timing of schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Adoption of the Proposed Comp Plan Update in **June 2026**. *This is six months later than the City's state mandated deadline for periodic update adoption.*

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

None.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

In November 2025, Forks provided the Department of Commerce the required 60-day notice of intent to adopt the update. Comments received were incorporated into the latest draft of the proposed periodic update. Comments were received and revisions made in response to those comments. Revised document is posted on the City website at

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-A-Background>

- a. Comments received have been incorporated into the most recent revision to this periodic update to the City's Comprehensive Plan. The update was due for adoption by end of 31 Dec 2026 and the city will be late in adoption of this update.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The City intends to adopt in June or July 2026, the mandatory Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update 2025-2045 (Comp Plan Update). The Comp Plan Update covers a 20-year period from 2025 until 2045. The scale of the analysis covers the City of Forks and the associated GMA urban growth area known as the Forks Urban Growth Area (FUGA). The FUGA contains over 4,150 acres with the City's incorporated area being approximately 53% of the FUGA.

This revision takes a practical approach with a planning document that focuses more on the goals and policies for multi-decadal planning, administration, and governance of the City of Forks' activities related to GMA required elements. These elements include:

1. Environment
2. Climate
3. Economics
4. Land Use
5. Housing
6. Transportation
7. Community Facilities
8. Parks
9. Utilities
10. Capital Facilities

These elements are individual chapters in the Comp Plan Update and follow after a chapter on the history of Forks and a detailed overview of the requirements associated with a periodic update with focus being on the statutory changes associated with house.

Previous versions of the Comp Plan Update provided significant background data, however, that information is readily available via the Internet and the revision incorporates key data for each element only. As a result, the revision is substantially more compact and readable. The focus in each element is on the associated goals and policies for that element. Some of these were continued from earlier versions, while others were introduced to address changing issues or statutory requirements.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section,

township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The City and the FUGA are in the SW portion of Clallam County and are generally within Sections 32-33 T 29 N, R 13 W and 8-10, 16-18 T 28 N, R 13 W, W.M., Clallam County, Washington State.

B.Environmental Elements

1. Earth

[Find help answering earth questions³](#)

General description of the site:

The FUGA consists of the Forks Prairie that is relatively flat with a slight slope towards the west. The southern and eastern edges of the FUGA are associated with the foothills that surround the prairie.

Circle or highlight one: Flat, ~~rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:~~

a. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Less than 2%.

b. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them, and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

These two designations are the primary designations within the Soil Survey of Clallam County by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service. The following are quoted from that survey.

56 – Quillayute silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes. This very deep, well-drained soil is on terraces. It formed in loess and old estuary deposits. The native vegetation is mainly conifers and shrubs. Elevation is 80 to 350 feet...Permeability of this Quillayute soil is moderate... Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is slight. The unit is used mainly as woodland. It is also used as hayland, pastureland, and homesites. Also of note is that this soil type is prone to muddying during construction/excavation.

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-earth>

66 – Solduc very gravelly sandy loam. This very deep, somewhat excessively drained soil is on terraces. It formed in glacial outwash that has loess and volcanic ash in the upper part. Slope is 0 to 5 percent. The natural vegetation is mainly conifers and shrubs...Permeability of this Solduc soil is moderate to the substratum and rapid through it...Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is slight. This unit is used as woodland and homesites.

- c. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

The slope areas of the hills have been identified as prone to instability. In addition, portions of the riverbank associated with the Calawah River are identified with potential instability, however, survey documents over the past century show little, significant movement of those banks.

- d. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Not applicable to the Comp Plan Update.

- e. Could erosion occur because of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Erosion issues are addressed in the development process through both critical area ordinance compliance and through SEPA checklists for larger developments.

- f. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

Only a small portion of the FUGA is covered by impervious surfaces.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any.**

No additional measures are envisioned.

2. Air

[Find help answering air questions⁴](#)

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

None.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

None.

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-Air>

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The Comp Plan Update proposes a policy supporting efforts to reduce GHG emissions to government operations through efficient fleet management.

3. Water

[Find help answering water questions⁵](#)

a. Surface:

[Find help answering surface water questions⁶](#)

- 1. Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

The FUGA includes the confluence of the Calawah and Bogachiel Rivers and contains numerous creeks to include Mill, Warner, Peterson, and Elk Creeks. There are several wetlands, forested and other, within the FUGA as well.

- 2. Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No. The Comp Plan Update does not require any work within 200 feet of any waters. Further, the Comp Plan Update supports the City's 2021 adoption of the Clallam County Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). The City also adopted a revised Flood Hazard Management ordinance in 2025.

- 3. Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

None. Current permitting efforts have been adopted to reduce, if not totally prevent, such activities.

- 4. Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not under the proposed Comp Plan Update.

- 5. Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Portions of the FUGA have been identified by FEMA as being within the 100-year floodplain and regulations are in place to limit activities within those areas.

⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Surface-water>

6. Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

[Find help answering ground water questions⁷](#)

1. Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give a general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not by the Comp Plan Update.

2. Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Sections of the FUGA utilize septic systems as the wastewater treatment utility only provides sewer services to the central part of the City.

c. Water Runoff (including stormwater):

1. Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Ditches are used to convey storm water from the Forks Prairie, on which the City of Forks is located, westward. Peterson Creek flows into an unnamed forest wetland at its western terminus. Warner Creek flows into Mill Creek at its westernmost terminus.

2. Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

The Comp Plan Update reiterates City policy that all new development is required to maintain and keep stormwater on site through infiltration means. The management of stormwater is a significant priority of the City as creating new stormwater infrastructure is extremely expensive in response to the dozen feet of rain received each year.

3. Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

No.

⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-3-Water/Environmental-elements-Groundwater>

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:**

Adoption of the Comp Plan Update with the policies noted above.

4. Plants

[Find help answering plants questions](#)

- a. **Check the types of vegetation found on the site:**

- deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other**
- evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other**
- shrubs**
- grass**
- pasture**
- crop or grain**
- orchards, vineyards, or other permanent crops.**
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other**
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other**
- other types of vegetation**

- b. **What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

Not applicable to the Comp Plan Update. The Comp Plan Update creates policies that encourage the utilization of native plant species and avoiding the use of non-native vegetation. Further, the Comp Plan Update encourages partnerships to coordinate efforts to remove harmful non-native vegetation.

- c. **List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

None.

- d. **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any.**

As noted above, the Comp Plan Update in association with the Environmental Element encourages through proposed policies the utilization of native plant materials, maintaining native plants, etc.

- e. **List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.**

None known.

5. Animals

[Find help answering animal questions](#)⁸

⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-5-Animals>

- a. **List any birds and other animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.**

Examples include:

- Birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds:
- Mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver:
- Fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish:

- b. **List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

Nearest Bald Eagle sites are approximately one to two miles away from ditches, although eagles are seen flying over the Forks Prairie.

- c. **Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**

Western Washington is part of the Pacific Flyway, a known migration route for birds.

- d. **Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.**

None.

- e. **List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.**

None known.

6. Energy and natural resources

[Find help answering energy and natural resource questions](#)⁹

- a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

Not Applicable.

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

A policy encouraging energy conservation within the FUGA is incorporated into the Comp Plan Update Environmental Element.

7. Environmental health

[Health Find help with answering environmental health questions](#)¹⁰

⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-6-Energy-natural-resou>

¹⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-7-Environmental-health>

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur because of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

1. Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

None.

2. Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

None.

3. Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Not applicable.

4. Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not applicable.

5. Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any.

None.

b. Noise

1. What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

2. What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site)?

None.

3. Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None. Existing ordinances and regulations address noise issues arising from activities and/ or development.

8. Land and shoreline use

[Find help answering land and shoreline use questions](#)¹¹

- a. **What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.**

FUGA is dominated by single-family residences with varying densities radiating outward from the core commercial and high-density residential portions of the City of Forks. The outer edges of the FUGA consists predominately of large tracts, still used for the grazing of cattle or growing hay.

- b. **Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses because of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?**

Yes, a few of the early homesteads have been largely kept intact and continue to be used for cattle grazing and hay.

1. **Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how?**

No.

- c. **Describe any structures on the site.**

Too many to describe.

- d. **Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

No.

- e. **What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

The City of Forks adopted a zoning code in 1997 that included proposed zoning for the non-City portions of the FUGA. The City's zoning code adopted a standard zoning approach with variations of residential and commercial zoning based upon density in relation to utility, primarily wastewater treatment, availability. The zoning code also adopted an overlay system where a combined residential-commercial series of zones were created to address transitioning neighborhoods between residential and commercial uses.

- f. **What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

The FUGA utilizes residential, commercial, overlap or dual zoning, and public designations.

- g. **If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

¹¹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-8-Land-shoreline-use>

The adopted SMP map designations within the City and FUGA are as follows per Map 34 of the City adopted Clallam County Shoreline Master Program attached and available <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5774/34-Forks-and-Calawah-Vicinity-PDF>

Shoreline Residential-intensive SED

- Along the southern bank of the Calawah within the City and FUGA to Elk Creek; and,
- A portion of the eastern bank of Elk Creek.

Shoreline Residential-Conservancy SED

- Northern bank of the Calawah River within the City of Forks;
- All of the Southern bank of the Calawah River that is east of the confluence of the Calawah River and Elk Creek and within the FUGA;
- All portions of the Bogachiel River within the SW portion of the FUGA;
- Both sides of Mill Creek's where the SMP applies;
- Portions along the eastern bank of Elk Creek.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

The FUGA has areas associated with either the City's or the County's critical areas code designations. These include wetlands, landslide hazard areas, erosion hazard zones, and shorelines.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

The predicted population for the City at the end of the 2045 planning period is approximately 5,162 (3,812 in the City and 1,350 in the FUGA) people from the 2020 estimated population of 4,637 (3,335 in the City and 1,302 in the FUGA) people. While this reflects an extremely slow growth rate, the City and FUGA have had a similar growth rate for the last three decades.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

The Comp Plan Update identifies the need to ensure the development of all types of housing while maintaining other needed land uses. Essential is a core belief that economic opportunities need to be available for the community's citizens.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.

Not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any.

Adoption of the Comp Plan Update.

m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not applicable.

9. Housing

[Find help answering housing questions](#)¹²

- a. **Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

The Comp Plan Update addresses the need for housing opportunities for all incomes but notes that there is a need for the City to be involved in ensuring affordable housing needs are pursued to increase the number of units available. The need for housing for all income brackets is of concern, and the goals and policies within the Housing Element address these concerns.

- b. **Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

The Comp Plan Update will not result in the elimination of housing units. Rather, the affordable house section aims to increase housing units by encouraging partnerships within the community to increase housing types across all income levels. Included in the affordable Housing Element is the recognition that economic stability and opportunity are closely tied with housing stability and the need for additional housing.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

Not Applicable.

10. Aesthetics

[Find help answering aesthetics questions](#)¹³

- a. **What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

The tallest structures are the existing towers, radio, or telecom, within the FUGA. The tallest building is the Forks High School Gym/Commons.

- b. **What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

None.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:**

None. Aesthetic impacts are assessed on a project-by-project basis.

11. Light and glare

[Find help answering light and glare questions](#)¹⁴

- a. **What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

¹² <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-9-Housing>

¹³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-10-Aesthetics>

¹⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-11-Light-glare>

None.

- b. **Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

Not Applicable.

- c. **What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

None.

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

Not applicable.

12. Recreation

[Find help answering recreation questions](#)

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

Tillicum Park, West End Youth League fields, Library, Bogachiel State Park, Olympic National Park, numerous rivers and streams for fishing and ocean beaches.

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

No.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

[Find help answering historic and cultural preservation questions](#)¹⁵

- a. **Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.**

There buildings within the City and FUGA that are older than 45 years of age, but there are too many to list for the associated Period Update SEPA analysis as the adoption of the proposed Comp Plan does not impact those buildings.

- b. **Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.**

Evidence exists of culturally significant locations along the Calawah River and at the confluence of the Bogachiel and Calawah Rivers. Potential areas of shallow water could be areas associated with fish harvesting and processing. Indigenous peoples utilized the area associated with the Forks Prairie by repeatedly burning away brush and trees to

¹⁵ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-13-Historic-cultural-p>

encourage grasses to grow to attract game.

Three properties have structures that are associated with American settlement of the Forks Prairie in the latter half of the 1800s (King, Peterson, and Mansfield). In addition, there are residential buildings associated with the growth of Forks during the later 1890s through 1920s.

- c. **Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.**

None.

- d. **Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.**

None.

14. Transportation

[Find help with answering transportation questions](#)¹⁶

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

If maximum build out were to occur within the 20-year planning period, many roads will see significant traffic within the section of Calawah Way between SR 101/Forks Avenue and Maple Street that could fail for congestion. Efforts to improve Spartan, Division, and Maple Streets will help to reduce these potential impacts. Future potential connecting roadways are identified. The goals and objectives address the need to review additional roadway creation, securing rights of way, etc.

Sidewalks were installed on SR 101/Forks Avenue, along East Division, and portions of Bogachiel Way and Calawah Way. In addition, as part of the E Street Improvements a paved walking pathway will connect Forks Avenue to 5th Street. The Comp Plan Update proposes the continued extending of sidewalks outward from the central core of the City that has been a goal for the past 20+ years.

- b. **Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Clallam Transit provides ride on demand in-city transit service. In addition, Quileute Tribe provides a limited shuttle service between La Push and Forks. Continued utilization of these much-needed services is a goal.

¹⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-B-Environmental-elements/Environmental-elements-14-Transportation>

- c. **Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle, or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).**

New roadways or streets are needed that would link in a grid/loop format areas of the Forks Prairie that currently are not easily connected. The connections would be created in association with development of the lightly developed sections of the Forks Prairie.

- d. **Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

The City owns two airports at Quillayute and Forks. Both provide general aviation access to the region; however, dedicated air service is highly unlikely in the planning period.

- e. **How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?**

None by the Comp Plan Update. However, if maximum build out were to ever be obtained, many of the major roadways (Forks, Calawah, Bogachiel and Division) could see average daily traffic counts over 27,000. As the Forks Prairie is developed, the City's permitting processes will need to ensure adequate improvements for motorized and non-motorized transportation.

- f. **Will the proposal interfere with, affect, or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.**

No.

- g. **Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

None.

15. Public services

[Find help answering public service questions¹⁷](#)

- a. **Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

If significant growth were to occur, there would be increased development and population will require additional public services. Matching increased populations with services may require a phased development of public facilities as revenues materialize from the associated increase in people. Projections are that the City would increase from a total population of 3,335 in 2020 to 3,812 people in 2045. As the population grows, agencies will be assessing service needs and delivery approaches to meet those increases.

¹⁷ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-15-public-services>

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Facilities will be reviewed on an annual basis as part of the Capital Facilities Improvement Plan. The approach should allow for an annual assessment of the City's needs, but also the needs of other special purpose districts.

16. Utilities

[Find help answering utilities questions¹⁸](#)

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other:**
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

None. The Comp Plan Update includes a Utilities Element that incorporates the City's water and wastewater comprehensive plans. These two utility-based planning documents address water and sewer needs within the FUGA. It is expected that during the planning period, there will need to be expansions of the wastewater treatment system, however, the cost to do so would require significant financial investment.

Telecom needs grew significantly during the last two decades and are expected to increase into the future as individuals utilize numerous means of accessing internet, broadband, cellular, and other telecom related services.

With other utility service providers, the Comp Plan Update encourages the City to work in collaboration with other utility service providers to ensure a greater level of service.

C. Signature

[Find help about who should sign¹⁹](#)

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

X 

Type name of signee:

Position and agency/organization:

¹⁸ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-b-environmental-elements/environmental-elements-16-utilities>

¹⁹ <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/SEPA/Environmental-review/SEPA-guidance/SEPA-checklist-guidance/SEPA-Checklist-Section-C-Signature>

Date submitted:

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions

[Find help for the nonproject actions worksheet²⁰](#)

Do not use this section for project actions.

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

If complete build out were to occur within the FUGA, the City believes that the adoption of, and review of, the Comp Plan Update and the enacting of the various policies should significantly reduce the potential for such adverse impacts.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Adoption of the Comp Plan Update, integration and implementation of the proposed goals and policies into the City's review of development permits.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Future development of the Forks Prairie into various densities of residential and commercial uses would result in the conversion of lands currently associated with agriculture (cattle grazing, haying). Such conversions could impact elk herds associated with the Forks Prairie. Development to maximum build out could impact surface water, if not addressed through the development process. The City has required that new development ensure that all stormwater is infiltrated on site to reduce impacts to surface water.

• Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Adoption of the Comp Plan Update; utilization of the City's Development and Critical Areas ordinances to limit impacts to surface water by continuing requirements to keep storm water on site, implementation of setbacks and buffers, etc.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Development of residential, commercial, and public facilities would have some components that would deplete natural resources in the form of rock, gravel, and metals. However, utilization of traditional or manufactured wood products ensures the utilization of a renewable resource which is highly regulated under State law.

• Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

²⁰ <https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/sepa/environmental-review/sepa-guidance/sepa-checklist-guidance/sepa-checklist-section-d-non-project-actions>

Development pursuant to state energy standards, encouraging the utilization of more wood construction should reduce the rate of depletion of non-renewable natural resources. Compliance with new energy codes, and the Comp Plan Update's policy to encourage the City to reduce its own energy needs, would also help to address this concern.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection, such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The Comp Plan Update encourages, through the City's critical areas code, the protection of wetlands, floodplains, etc. The CAO is subject to revision in 2026. Farmland is a permitted use and the City's provisions allowing for planned use development, or density transferring can help maintain farmlands if the owner so chooses. The plan does not address the need for additional areas for study such as parks, wilderness, or wild and scenic rivers. Rivers/Waters of the State associated with the FUGA were addressed by the City adopting the Clallam County Shoreline Management Plan.

• **Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:**

Within the City, continued application of the critical area ordinance. The City's adoption of the Clallam County Shoreline Management Plan when addressed consistency in regulations, but also addressed the practical aspect of only a handful of potential shoreline permits in the past quarter century.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The existing plans, including the zoning code and proposed UGA zoning code designations, were incorporated into earlier versions of the Comp Plan. This Comp Plan Update builds on those and anticipates the continuation of those existing documents. As noted above, the shoreline uses are currently addressed via the Clallam County Shoreline Management Plan. The City decided to adopt that code as its own to reduce incompatibilities due to the shared nature of the areas associated with the Calawah and Bogachiel Rivers.

• **Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:**

Continued application of the City's critical area code, as well as the adoption and application of the Clallam County shoreline management plan (SMP).

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The adoption of the Comp Plan Update will not increase those demands. However, as development occurs, and if maximum development to full build out were to occur, then these issues would be reduced by the adoption of the Comp Plan Update and implementation of the proposed policies.

• **Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:**

Adoption of the Comp Plan Update.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

None.