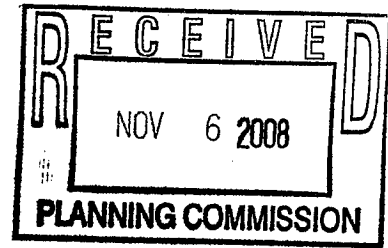


November 6, 2008

Grays Harbor County Planning Commission
100 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 31
Montesano, Washington 98663-3614



Dear Planning Commission members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Critical Protection Area Code (CAO). Wildlife Forever of Grays Harbor (WFOGH) is a local group formed for the purpose of protecting sensitive ecological resources along our coast, and educating people on the benefits of long term natural resource protection.

Summary of Comments and Recommendations

WFOGH was one of the eighteen CAO public comments offered in June, and on October 24, less than two weeks ago, we received an email from Brian Shea providing notice of availability of the second draft of Grays County Code 18.06, as well as the related first draft of the definition section Grays Harbor Code 18.02. Why was the first draft of the definition section of 18.02 not provided with 18.06? Our review of these latest drafts as a combined document indicates they don't meet the requirements of State Law for this CAO update, and we **strongly urge the County Planning Commission to not approve these CAO drafts**. These two drafts should be updated with recommendations provide by the public, but more importantly by State Agencies and the Quinault Tribe. If updated using these resources, would save the county time and money, especially if the County used an already approved Washington State County CAO. During financially hard times like this, saving money should be a high priority for Grays Harbor, and allow this CAO update to move forward quickly and without legal conflicts. If the county desires a legal battle, and enjoys spending taxpayer money as it acts "rouge" and "mavericky", then continue to do the bare minimum to request public involvement, and pass them without any thought to the consequences.

One of the most noticeable flaws in the County's CAO draft is the small wetland buffers that do not meet best available science, or come close to the buffer sized used by counties around us.

As the Quinault Indian Nation said in their comments, "In reviewing the Policy Statement it was clear the intent of the proposal was to maximize economic gain for landowners."

From DOE's comments: "However, the current draft CAO does not provide many of the standards and provisions necessary to meet these goals."

We've also provide better and more accurate wording for the definitions provided, including references from FEMA's web site, and Private Landowner Network.

Thank you for the public comment opportunity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Schwickerath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dean Schwickerath, President, Wildlife Forever of Grays Harbor