

XIV: URBANIZATION

Goal: To provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use.

Findings: The findings below are the basis of planning decisions made with respect to urbanization within the county:

1. That four cities and the Wallowa Lake area have reached densities which might be considered urban in Wallowa County.
2. That urban growth boundaries have been established for each of the four cities.
3. That rural residential buffers have been provided to make the transition between urban and agricultural uses.
4. That most projected population increases can be accommodated within urban growth and rural residential areas without the need to develop additional land in the foreseeable future.

Policies: The following statements of policy are related to satisfying the above goals.

1. That the urban growth boundaries be used as guidelines to plan services and consider annexations.
2. That urban growth boundaries be changed only after determining that there is a need for additional urban area and a capability of providing urban services to such area without increasing the financial burden of residents within the area.
3. That urban uses be discouraged from sprawl which may increase service costs, transportation congestion, and the transition of land from agriculture, timber production or grazing to urban uses.
4. That maximum, reasonable utilization of land within the cities be made before additional land is annexed.

Implementation: The following are implementation measures during identified during the preparation of the plan.

1. That ordinance revisions be made to establish conditions for changing urban growth boundaries, and converting rural land to urban uses in accord with the urbanization goal.

2. That road and service improvements be made to guide urbanization in the direction desired.