

Engagement Plan

Engagement Goals

The public engagement process will be based on the consultation with local experts in the agricultural industry and those impacted by local food supply and the providing transparency for the public. Engagement will be largely focused on educating the public about the scope and limitations of the analysis and then working with stakeholders in the agricultural industry for insights that may help increase the integrity of the data, especially as conditions relate to the discretionary criteria in WAC 365-190-050 (1)(c).

Through the public engagement process, Douglas County seeks to achieve the following goals:

Educate and Inform the Community

- Ensure that community members understand the issues, plans, and the context around the project.
- Offer clear and accessible information to build informed participants in the planning process.

Assess agricultural conditions

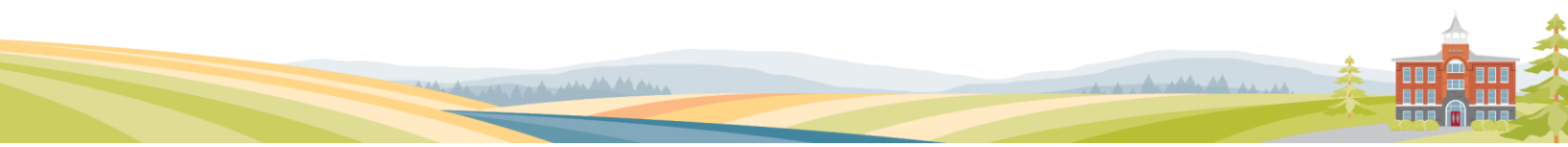
- Work with applicable stakeholder groups to gain greater insight into the application of discretionary criteria of WAC 365-190-050 (1)(c), as needed.

Provide Data Driven Deliverables

- Enhance the integrity of the data with local knowledge and nuance.

Stakeholders

Kimley-horn will seek to involve stakeholders directly or indirectly involved in the range of decisions that will be considered throughout the process. Possible stakeholders have been listed below. It is important to note that even with the best intentions of the consultant and the County to initially identify key stakeholders, there are inevitably other parties, groups, organizations, members of the public, etc., who are inadvertently not represented on the initial list but whose participation is important. Kimley-Horn will, in partnership with the County, engage identified stakeholders prior to developing policy, map, and code changes so the community is informed about the project and can provide feedback to assist the Board of County Commissioners as project options are evaluated.



- Agricultural property owners
- Conservation districts
- Farmers markets
- Food cooperatives
- Food banks
- Hospitals
- County residents / property owners
- Town of Waterville
- Orondo Community
- Douglas Community
- Bridgeport Bar Community
- Palisades Community
- Tribal entities
- Utility Providers
- Fire Departments
- City of Bridgeport
- City of East Wenatchee
- City of Rock Island
- Town of Coulee Dam
- Town of Mansfield
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Commerce

Engagement Strategies

Project Website

Utilize a project-dedicated site to post events, documents, schedule, and ongoing project updates for the duration of the project. The project website will be a page on the County's website.

Printed Materials

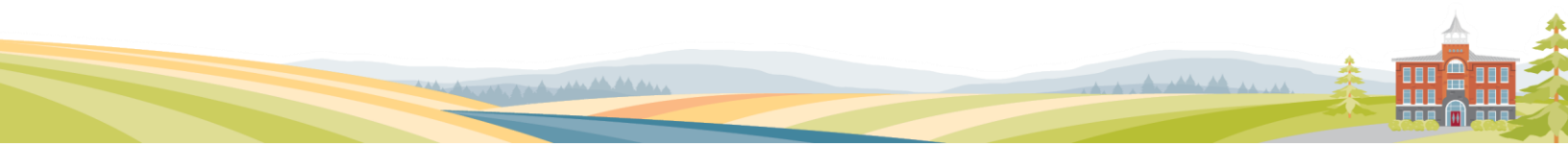
For all materials added to the project website, there will be a printable version for the County to print and provide to more remote locations. Providing digital and physical copies of project materials will allow for the most opportunity for education and engagement.

Mailed Materials

As the County has relied on mailings in the past, the printed materials use for in-person meetings will also be available to mail to property owners that may not otherwise be made of the project starting and potential impacts to remote agricultural areas.

In Person Meetings

The engagement plan seeks to hold in person meetings for stakeholders. This allows for clearer communication and reduced misunderstandings throughout the life of the project. However, Kimley-Horn encourages adopting communication and engagement approaches that align with the preferences of specific local communities.



Virtual or Recorded Meetings (as needed)

For key public meetings, hybrid and/or recorded options will be prioritized. The project team has already identified the first initial outreach meeting as a key meeting to record and upload to the project website. Key public meetings for this project will most likely be the first initial outreach meeting and the meeting to present initial findings of the report after review by the BOCC. The first initial outreach meeting is meant to educate the public on the purpose and process of the Agricultural Lands and limiting the audience to one in-person may not provide the public equal opportunity to be informed from the beginning of the process. At a minimum the project team will upload all materials used for in-person meetings, including PowerPoints and poster boards, to the project website so the public can stay as informed as possible to provide some virtual opportunity to stay informed.

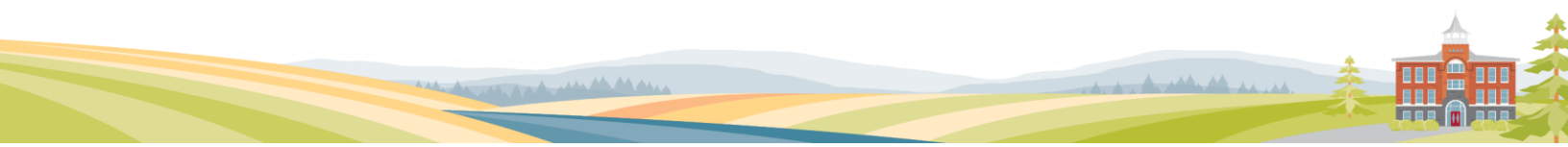
Virtual stakeholder meetings will be held to increase accessibility and meeting flexibility. Kimley-Horn encourages adopting communication and engagement approaches that align with the preferences of specific local communities. For community-wide engagement strategies, like open houses, in-person engagement will be the primary strategy.

Planning Commission Meetings/Hearings

At key points in the project, Kimley-Horn will attend Planning Commission meetings for discussion and participation. This is considered as part of the engagement strategy as these meetings are open to the public and can be good opportunities for commissioners to hear first-hand comments regarding the analysis. Hearings are expected to be scheduled in 2027 once outcomes of the analysis have been reviewed with the County.

Board of County Commissioners Meetings/Hearings

This engagement plan seeks to hold public workshops with the Board of County Commissioners at key points in the project. This is considered as part of the engagement strategy as these meetings are open to the public and can be good opportunities for commissioners to hear first-hand comments regarding the analysis. Hearings are expected to be scheduled in 2027 once outcomes of the analysis have been reviewed with the County.



Engagement Schedule

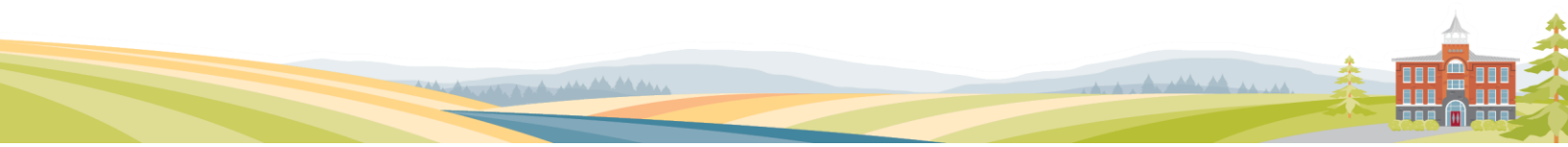
Generally, the engagement will focus on heavy education at the very beginning of the project. An early campaign will be released online providing materials, frequently asked questions, and resources to help those under the intent and limitations of the analysis to come. Later engagement will focus on coordinating with those who may be impacted by the analysis. It is anticipated that this will be agricultural industries, food retail, and others close to the County’s food system. Kimley-Horn will remain flexible and open-minded when reaching out to stakeholders and also take guidance from the County’s local perspective.

Engagement
Ag Lands Analysis
Public Meetings/Hearings

Year	Task/Deliverable	Timeframe	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2026	Project Charter	Jan	Engagement			
	Engagement Plan	Jan	Engagement			
	Project FAQs	Jan	Engagement			
	Project website content	Jan	Engagement			
	Project introduction public meeting	Feb	Engagement			
	Consultation with stakeholders on WAC 365-190-050 (c)	May-July		Engagement	Engagement	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers • Conservation districts • Department of Agriculture • Schools and hospitals • Food cooperatives and grocery stores 					
	BOCC Meeting	August			Public Meetings/Hearings	
	Report First Draft				Ag Lands Analysis	
	BOCC Meeting	Dec				Public Meetings/Hearings
2027	Report Final Draft		Ag Lands Analysis	Public Meetings/Hearings		
	Planning Commission Meetings/Hearings	Apr-Jun		Public Meetings/Hearings		
	BOCC Meetings/Hearings	July-Sep			Public Meetings/Hearings	
	Public Hearings	Oct-Nov				Public Meetings/Hearings

Agency Coordination

The county will coordinate with regional and state agencies throughout the comprehensive plan process as needed. Coordination with agencies ensures consistency between Douglas County and statewide planning efforts as well as



promoting compliance with the Growth Management Act and statewide agricultural practices.

Key agencies that Douglas County

- WA Department of Agriculture
- WA Department of Ecology
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WA Department of Natural Resources
- WA Department of Commerce

Opportunities

It is important in rural communities to identify communication networks that are most effective for reaching residents. Limited access to technology, varying preferences for information channels, and geographic isolation can make traditional outreach methods less successful. To overcome this, it is important to meet people where they are by using locally preferred communication methods and being flexible with meeting times and locations.

In technical projects, it is important to reduce the risk of a single strong stakeholder voice dominating discussions and influencing outcomes disproportionately. This can limit diverse perspectives and undermine the integrity of the process. To address this, Kimley-Horn will focus on data-driven results as the foundation for decision-making and ensure that every participant has an equal opportunity to contribute. Accessible community engagement methods—such as open forums, transparent communication, and inclusive outreach— will foster a balanced environment where all voices are heard and respected.

