



# Growth Management Services

Issue 9 - November 2007

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) invests in Washington's communities, businesses, and families to build a healthy and prosperous future.

Greetings!

Welcome to the Planner's Update, an electronic newsletter from CTED Growth Management Services. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington state. We hope the electronic format will allow you to quickly review the information and find more detail on those topics most important to you.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to subscribe.

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Managing Director  
Growth Management Services

## Planner's Update: News That Planners Can Use

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### What's New on Growth Management Web site

CTED's Web site is constantly being updated with new resources to assist your planning efforts. Be sure to visit the Growth Management Services Web page at <http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth> regularly and check out the "What's New" list for quick links to new resources. Here are some links to a few of the new topics and resource documents we added recently:

#### **Regional Transfer of Development Rights**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/1060/default.aspx>

#### **Outstanding Community Planning Success Stories, and the Governor's Smart Communities Awards winners for 2007, 2006**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/1058/default.aspx>

#### **GMA Administrative Guidelines Update Project**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/1043/default.aspx>

#### **School Siting/Planning**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/1005/default.aspx>

### **Growth Management Act and Related Laws - 2007 Booklet Update**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/377/default.aspx>

In addition, CTED's Web site also provides lots of information and quick links to other topics of interest, such as:

#### **Climate Change**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/526/default.aspx>

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat\\_overview.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/climatechange/cat_overview.htm)

#### **Affordable Housing**

[http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias\\_CTED/lang\\_en/tabID\\_410/DesktopDefault.aspx](http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias_CTED/lang_en/tabID_410/DesktopDefault.aspx)

#### **Transportation**

[http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias\\_CTED/lang\\_en/tabID\\_403/DesktopDefault.aspx](http://www.cted.wa.gov/portal/alias_CTED/lang_en/tabID_403/DesktopDefault.aspx)

#### **Economic Development**

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/595/default.aspx>

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### **USDA Soil Information**

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service reviewed and updated the prime, unique, and statewide important farmland lists for soil surveys in Washington State. At the same time, they reviewed and updated the land capability classification. Check for changes to the lists you may currently use. They are doing this statewide to bring all soil surveys to the same set of criteria. This may impact the counties as they work through Washington State's Growth Management Act.

A number of products are available to help you use this new data. All of the published soil surveys in Washington State are available in digital format for use in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). That soils information is available for download at: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/>. In addition, the soils information, including prime status and land capability class, is contained in a Microsoft Access® database. An Arc View extension called "Soil Data Viewer" is also available to simplify using the spatial and tabular data.

A more user-friendly Web site to access the official data that does not require GIS software is available at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app>.

The result is the hard copies that have been used in the past are not considered by NRCS as the official soils information.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service wants to contact all county planning departments to assist them in any way they can in using new data and products. Please call or e-mail Brad Duncan for assistance. His phone number is 509-323-2982. His e-mail is: [brad.duncan@wa.usda.gov](mailto:brad.duncan@wa.usda.gov).

#### **Quick Links**

[www.cted.wa.gov/growth](http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth)

[www.mrsc.org](http://www.mrsc.org)

[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)

[www.planningpaw.org](http://www.planningpaw.org)

[www.washington-apa.org](http://www.washington-apa.org)

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[Lindawe@cted.wa.gov](mailto:Lindawe@cted.wa.gov)

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## **Workshop on Tribal Sovereignty**

Developed by the Governor's Office on Indian Affairs, Tribes, AWB, and DOR.

This training is for local government folks, tribal members, businesses, and community members.

The first workshop is in Port Angeles on November 27 and registration is **free**. For a brochure and registration, visit the Department of Revenue's Web site at:

<http://dor.wa.gov/content/workshopsandeducation/attendaworkshop/>

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## **Multi Unit Tax Incentive Program**

The Multi Unit Tax Incentive Program (RCW 84.14) amended by the 2007 legislature became effective July 22, 2007. This legislation lowers the population requirement (minimum population is 15,000) for a city to be eligible to offer property tax exemptions for certain multi-unit housing projects in urban areas. It also requires cities that issue such exemptions to report data annually to CTED beginning December 31, 2007.

The annual reporting form will be available on our Web site at [www.cted.wa.gov/growth](http://www.cted.wa.gov/growth) by the end of November. All eligible jurisdictions will be notified of this incentive program that could help address housing affordability. For more information contact Ike Nwankwo at 360- 725-3056.

**Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development  
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