



Growth Management Services

Supporting local governments as they plan for growth and prosperity

Purpose

The mission of Growth Management Services (GMS) is to assist and guide local governments, state agencies, and others to manage growth and development, consistent with the Growth Management Act (GMA).

Washington’s population has increased about 20 percent a decade from 1960 through 2000, adding more than one million people during the 1990s. Between 1995 and 2005, the state grew by about 892,100 people. Population is projected to continue to rise by between 65,000 and 88,000 each year through 2010.

The GMA was adopted to address how to accommodate this growth. It requires that the fastest-growing cities and counties complete comprehensive plans and development regulations to guide future growth. All jurisdictions are required to protect critical environmental areas and conserve natural resource lands, such as farms and forests. The GMA calls for communities to review and, if necessary, revise their plans and regulations every seven years to ensure they remain up-to-date.

GMS assists cities and counties as they create plans, regulations, and permit systems that enable them to grow and prosper in balance with their natural and financial resources. Whether a community is responding to the pressures of rapid urbanization or working to stimulate a weak economy, managing growth can help provide land for growth, infrastructure, commercially important natural resources, environmental protection, affordable housing, economic opportunities, property rights, and quality-of-life amenities.

Results and Achievements

- Eighty-eight percent of new development in the six most populous Western Washington counties is occurring within designated urban growth areas.
- All Washington cities and counties have adopted comprehensive plans and development regulations under the Growth Management Act.
- Ninety-six percent of new development in King County is occurring within designated urban growth areas.

Fast Facts

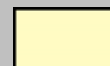
What is the GMA?

In 1990 the Legislature found that “uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of common goals pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state. It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning.” (RCW 36.70A.010). This is the foundation for the GMA.

Who plans under the GMA?



Counties Fully Planning Under GMA



Counties Planning for Critical Areas and Natural Resource Lands Only Under GMA



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Services

Direct Assistance: Assign a professional staff planner, who offers direct assistance and consultation, to each city and county. Each planner serves about 35 local governments. A map of these assignments is available at www.cted.wa.gov/growth.

Grants: Administer grants to local governments for growth management planning and implementation – about \$5.5 million in Fiscal Year 2007-09.

Training and Education: Provide training and other educational workshops for about 1,000 citizens, elected officials, and staff each year. Training opportunities are tailored to individual community interests.

Publications: Develop and distribute Washington Administrative Code guidelines, guidebooks, fact sheets, newsletters, and reports. GMS maintains an extensive set of growth management resources on CTED's Web site, which is the most visited section of the agency's Web offerings.

Review: Provide information and guidance to cities and counties on proposed GMA implementation actions. CTED receives about 1,200 GMA actions every year. It reviews more than 540 of these actions and provides feedback to local officials.

Buildable Lands: Coordinate, facilitate, and report on the Buildable Lands Program. The six fastest growing counties are required to monitor available land supply to determine if enough land is available for future urban growth.

State Coordination: Facilitate GMA-related state agency activities and services to local governments. GMS also trains agency staff on working effectively in local land use activities. It maintains an interagency database tracking local planning activities and state comments.

Research: Complete special studies on emerging issues related to planning and development, such as climate change, infrastructure funding, transfer of development rights and urban forestry.

Awards Program: Sponsor the Governor's Smart Communities Awards program recognizing outstanding achievement in creating quality communities.

Performance Measures

- Increase the amount of new development occurring inside urban growth areas (UGA).
- Help city and county planning actions that are consistent with the GMA.
- Provide grants for specific land use planning and projects in addition to those required by the GMA.

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Statutory Authority

Among other statutes, various sections of RCW 36.70A and RCW 43.330 including:

RCW 36.70A.190
Technical assistance, procedural criteria, grants, and mediation services

RCW 43.63A.550
Growth management inventorying and collecting data

RCW 43.330.120
Growth management central coordinator for state government

RCW 36.70A.215
Review and evaluation program (also known as the Buildable Lands Program)

Contact Information

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