Mineral Resource Lands: Designation Criteria
OVERVIEW

- Designation Criteria and Map Options
- Answers to Questions
- Next Steps

Staff have requested a recommendation from the Planning Commission on the scope of the Mineral Lands Designation Criteria and Map.
## Project Steps for Mineral Resource Lands

1. **Identify and classify**
   - Develop a countywide inventory based on geologic data on the location and extent of mineral deposits, existing land uses, and other factors. These areas are categorized based on their quality, using available data from DNR, USGS, and others.

2. **Designate**
   - Identify priority areas where high quality mineral resources are available and compatible with existing land use patterns and other criteria.

3. **Conserve**
   - Establish policies that ensure future land uses will be compatible with mineral extraction in designated areas.

4. **Permit**
   - New mining operations planned in areas designated as mineral resource lands will still need to be reviewed before they are permitted to operate. Mining activities must abide by all relevant state and local regulations, including environmental rules.
DESIGNATION CRITERIA OPTIONS

- Draft Mineral Resource Lands Designation Options
  - Map 1. Broad approach
    - Map 1. Current Criteria in Comprehensive Plan
    - Map 1a. Co-designates Agricultural Lands
  - Map 2. Narrow approach
    - Excludes ALL criteria that have been discussed
  - Map 3. Blended
    - Designation area is the same as Map 1
    - Identifies “review area” that may overlap with critical areas and other criteria
## DESIGNATION CRITERIA OPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current MRL Designation</th>
<th>2017 Inventory</th>
<th>Map 1</th>
<th>Map 1a</th>
<th>Map 2</th>
<th>Map 3</th>
<th>Map 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maps identified mine parcels</td>
<td>Maps resources based on geology</td>
<td>Current Comp Plan Criteria</td>
<td>Also includes LTA</td>
<td>Excludes all critical areas, historic sites, LAMIRDs, etc</td>
<td>Shows all additional exclusionary criteria as a “review area”</td>
<td>2004 MRL Task Force Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acres</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,623</strong></td>
<td><strong>189,475</strong></td>
<td><strong>141,554</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,776</strong></td>
<td><strong>104,502</strong></td>
<td><strong>141,554</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of Inventory</strong></td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DESIGNATION CRITERIA OPTIONS

- Jurisdiction
- Land Use Factors
  - Compatibility with Adjacent Land Uses
  - Sensitive Land Uses
- Environmental Factors
  - Critical Areas
  - Shorelines
  - Habitat
## DESIGNATION CRITERIA OPTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>In Current Comp Plan</th>
<th>Data Quality</th>
<th>Stakeholder Feedback: Designation or Permitting?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdictional</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UGAs and 1,00 ft buffer</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-acre minimum size</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% of area within 1,000 ft</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 acres or larger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic sites</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>High*</td>
<td>Mixed, Permitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAMIRDS</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include confidential cultural or archeological sites.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>In Current Comp Plan</th>
<th>Data Quality</th>
<th>Stakeholder Feedback: Designation or Permitting?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood Zones</td>
<td>No (in Dev code)</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas</td>
<td>No (in Dev code)</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landslide Hazard Areas</td>
<td>No (in Dev code)</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Designation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat for State and Federally Listed Species</td>
<td>No (in Dev code)</td>
<td>Medium-High</td>
<td>Permitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gopher Preference Soils</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Permitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetlands</td>
<td>No (in Dev code)</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Permitting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MRL AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS

- See Memorandum 2
  - Some studies have shown that land used for (coal) mining can be reclaimed for agricultural use
  - Mining activities can affect soil properties
  - Reclamation plans and the reclamation process would need to be structured to address agricultural needs
  - Little research on the type of mining and agricultural activities most prevalent in Thurston County

- Overlap between Mineral Lands Inventory and LTA/NA zones
  - 2,241 acres overlap
  - Would add 2,222 acres to Mineral Lands Designation (Map 1a)
  - If all co-designated land were in use for mining, land available for Long Term Agriculture reduced by 18%
See Memorandum 3

- Gravel resources, and gravel mines, are often located near rivers
- Mining operations can disconnect floodplains and narrow river corridor, leading to higher velocity and erosion
- Potential for channel avulsion, habitat disruption, changes to sediment transport, and impacts upstream and downstream
NEXT STEPS

- Other Qs – Memo 4
- Refine MRL Map Options based on Planning Commission feedback
- Set a public hearing
Questions?

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## Minimum Designation Criteria: Chapter 3

1. **Mineral Deposits**
   - Should contain deposits based on USGS maps, DNR permits, or site specific geologic information

2. **Location**
   - Not adversely impact nearby land uses, public health or safety
     - 1,000 ft from
       - public preserves,
       - urban growth areas (UGAs)
       - residential areas with existing densities > 1/5
     - 60% of area within 1,000 ft of a proposed site must have parcels of 5 acres or larger (excludes applicant)

3. **Minimum Site Size**
   - 5 acres

4. **Marketability**
   - Mineable, recoverable, marketable

5. **LTA and Historic**
   - Long-term agriculture lands and historic/cultural sites are excluded

6. **LTF**
   - Long-term forestry lands may be co-designated
# EXISTING DESIGNATION CRITERIA: TC CODE (20.30B)

**Minimum Designation Criteria: 20.30B TCC**

Most Criteria are the same as in the Comprehensive Plan

## EXCEPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site does not contain the following critical areas: Zone 1 or Zone 2 areas for Group A public water systems, Class 1 or 2 wetlands or their buffers, FEMA 100-year floodplains, habitat areas for threatened or endangered species or their buffers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site is located away from geologically hazardous areas (steep slopes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A full critical area review is done at the time of application.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>