

**FERRY COUNTY  
ORDINANCE 2016-02  
AMENDING ORDINANCE 2013-03**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE FERRY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN AND THE CURLEW LAKE SUB AREA PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, Ferry County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted by Ordinance 95-06; and

**WHEREAS**, Ferry County is required to adopt a Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Sub Area Plans as required under RCW 36.70A.040(2) to fulfill the goals of the State of Washington Growth Management Act and the Goals and Land Use Policies of Ferry County; and

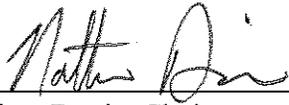
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Ferry County Commissioners has and will continue to extensively involve the public in the planning process under the Growth Management Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Wetland Section 7.4.4 has been updated.

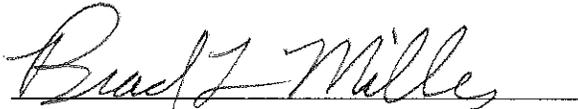
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Ferry County Commissioners, that the "Ferry County Comprehensive Plan" and the "Curlew Lake Sub-Area Plan" is hereby adopted.

DATED this 28th day of March, 2016.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



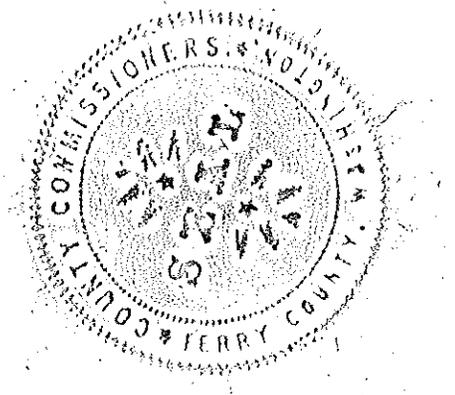
Nathan Davis, Chairman



Brad L. Miller, Vice-Chairman



Mike L. Blankenship, Member



ATTEST



Amanda Rowton,  
Clerk of the Board

## FERRY COUNTY 3/28/16 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE #2016-02

### 7.4.1 WETLANDS

Wetland or wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of construction of a road, street, or highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland areas created to mitigate conversion of wetlands. All areas meeting the definition of wetland are subject to the provisions of the Critical Areas Ordinance, (CAO).

Wetlands are transitional areas between upland and aquatic environments where water is present long enough to form distinct soils and where specialized hydrophytic vegetation can survive. Wetlands includes marshy areas along shorelines, inland swamps, and seasonal watercourses. Wetlands are typified by a water table that is at or near the surface and there may be standing water all or part of the year. Soils that are present in wetlands are known as *hydric* soils. Certain plant species including trees, shrubs, grasses, and grass-like plants have adapted to the low oxygen content of wetland soils. These plants are known as *hydrophytes*.

Another distinguishing characteristic of wetlands, in addition to soils and plants, is known as hydrology. Wetlands hydrology refers to the wetness of the wetlands -- how often is the soil saturated or flooded with water and how long does it last? Indicators of wetland hydrology may include drainage patterns, sediment deposition, watermarks, stream gauge data, flood predictions, historic data, visual observation of saturated soils, or flooded soils.

In their natural state, wetlands perform functions which are impossible or difficult and costly to replace. Wetlands provide erosion and sediment control -- the extensive root systems of wetland vegetation stabilize stream banks, floodplains, and shorelines. Wetlands improve water quality by decreasing the velocity of water flow, resulting in the physical interception and filtering of waterborne sediments, excess nutrients, heavy metals, and other pollutants. Wetlands also provide food and shelter, essential breeding, spawning, nesting and wintering habitat for fish and wildlife, including migratory birds, and other commercially and recreationally valuable species.

methodology described in the publication "Washington State Wetland Rating System for Eastern Washington" issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology, (Publication #14-06-030 October 2014). This publication utilizes data sources provided from Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and also requiring data collected using the publication.

On site, the person or team evaluating the wetland will first identify the wetland type and wetland class and will then complete a rating form which enables calculating a numeric "functional score" comprised of three functional areas – water quality, hydrology and habitat. The rating form also requires determining whether the wetland possesses any "special characteristics" or is associated with state or federally listed endangered, threatened, sensitive, or priority species.

Ferry County will be using the National Wetland Inventory Maps and the Tri-County Wetlands Maps as preliminary tools for locating wetlands. Final delineation will be based on the the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Final Regional Supplement, September, 2008 .

#### **7.4.5 CLASSIFICATION AND PROTECTION**

The classification of wetlands by category and rating is explained in detail in the Wetlands section of the CAO. Ferry County will protect wetlands by requiring protective buffers. Wetland buffers are further addressed in the CAO.

The Wetlands section of the CAO shall also cover the subjects of increased buffer widths; buffer width averaging; regulated activities; non-regulated activities; determination of wetland boundaries and wetland mitigation.

In designating and protecting critical areas, RCW 36.70A.172 requires cities and counties to include best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas. WAC 365-195-900 to 925 outlines the procedural criteria for considering best available science in Comprehensive Plans and development regulations.

The Ferry County Board of County Commissioners has considered best available science in developing the policies of the CAO. Appendix C1 of the CAO presents the record of science considered in requiring buffers to protect the functions and values of wetlands.

Ferry County will utilize the CAO when reviewing development permits and activities within wetland areas.