

DLCD LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT – HB 2254



Streamlining Urban Growth Management

Past Performance

Over the past 20 years, Oregon has used less land to accommodate population growth than any other western state (see comparison with Washington on the reverse page). In the vast majority of cities, population has grown at a faster rate than urban land area. As a result, we have conserved farm and forest lands for our agricultural and forest products industries (the 2nd and 3rd largest industries in our economy), and lowered costs for roads, sewer and water -- important objectives of our land use program.

The Problem

We rely on urban growth boundaries (UGBs) to decide where we grow and how. Although UGBs have worked well, many residents, local governments, and other stakeholders have become frustrated with the complexity, expense and slowness of the UGB amendment process. The complexity of the system also makes it hard for citizens to participate in decision-making, and the uncertainty of outcomes makes many local governments avoid taking on UGB planning.

The Solution

HB 2254 creates new simplified ways for growing cities to evaluate their need for additional land and development capacity, based on a population forecast. The method for small cities is designed so that they can complete the planning process with limited resources. The method for larger cities is also streamlined, but with more emphasis on assuring that lands within UGBs are used efficiently. The new methods clarify how cities decide *where* to grow when they have shown a need for additional land.

These new tools are optional - cities that want to continue using the current system may do so. They also will require rulemaking to work out the details and assure broad public input. Finally, research will be needed so that sideboards are set based on empirical evidence, and adjusted over time for different areas of the state. As a result, it is likely to be late 2014 before the new paths are ready to use.

For More Information:

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**2000-2010 Census Data for Northwest States –
Key Results: Oregon Grows More Efficiently than Other Western States**

Percentage Change 2000-2010 (Cities Over 20,000)

	Oregon	Washington	Idaho	California
Population	16.0%	16.8%	28.8%	10.7%
Urban Land Area	7.1%	9.4%	37.8%	6.2%
Population per Square Mile	8.3%	6.7%	-6.6%	4.7%

Land Use Change in Oregon and Washington 1994-2006

		Washington		Oregon	
		Acres (1000)	Percent	Acres (1000)	Percent
Comparison for the most recent period (94-06 WA/94-05 OR)					
12 year period WA; 11 year period OR					
Land Use	Wildland forest	-235	-1.8%	-27	-0.3%
	Intensive agriculture	-90	-1.0%	-38	-0.7%
	Wildland Range	-90	-1.5%	-43	-0.5%
	Mixed Uses: forest/ag/range	-49	-9.1%	6	0.4%
	Low-density residential	303	16.5%	42	3.6%
	Urban	159	20.5%	60	12.2%
	Other	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
Totals		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Net shift from resource uses to developed uses		-464	-1.6%	-102	-0.4%