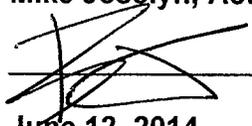




## ISLAND COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**TO:** Mike Joselyn, Acting Chair, Island County Planning Commission  
**FROM:**  Brad Johnson, Senior Planner  
**DATE:** June 12, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas Update

Commissioner Joselyn:

At the June 10, 2014 meeting of the Island County Planning Commission, the Planning Commission voted to recommend a number of changes to the Island County Code and Comprehensive Plan necessary to update Island County's Fish and Wildlife protection standards. During the Planning Commission's deliberations the Commission directed the Planning Department to make three specific changes:

1. The timeline for maintaining an "existing and ongoing" agricultural practice was extended from five years to six years and six months.
2. The Planning Commission elected to utilize riparian buffers at the low end of the range recommended in the Best Available Science report and to eliminate the buffer averaging and reduction provisions from the proposed code draft.
3. Planning Department staff was directed to draft an additional finding of fact reflecting support among some members of the public for protecting prairies, oak stands, and rare plants, and expressing a perceived lack of clarity regarding the scope of the protection standards required by the GMA.

Attached are findings of fact for your signature, as well as copies of the proposed code changes and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. These documents have been revised to reflect the changes requested by the Planning Commission, and to correct typographical errors. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.