



The Enterprise

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Husum rezone hearing planned

A group of local citizens will host a public meeting next week to discuss details of the proposed rezoning of the Husum/BZ Corner area.

"We're trying to bring awareness to the community that this change might be happening," said Beth McCullough, a Husum resident who is concerned about the proposal. "All the meetings so far have been in Goldendale."

Klickitat County is considering adopting rezoning plans that could sharply increase the number of houses in the area. In an excerpt from a March 29 memorandum, the Klickitat County Planning Department estimated that several hundred new homes could be built if the zoning is approved by the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners.

"The current estimated population of 942 persons will increase to 1,701 persons in 20 years (an additional 323 homes would be needed)," read a portion of the application for the proposed zone changes. "The Community Council desires to adjust policies in the sub-area plan ... and zoning map/text to accommodate the projected growth ..."

The meeting will address a number of issues related to the potential impacts of the rezoning plan if it is approved, including: changes in traffic volume, affects on wildlife and fish, water, recreational uses along the White Salmon River, potential for increased fire danger, and problems with adding possibly hundreds of new wells and septic tanks.

The Klickitat County Commissioners are tentatively scheduled to vote on a rezoning plan for Husum-BZ on Aug. 9.

"We want to educate people about the proposed rezoning, and let the county know that maybe we need to make a better plan," McCullough explained. "I have a lot of questions I want answered before this gets passed."

The public hearing about the rezoning proposal is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, at the White Salmon Community Library.