

March 16, 2010

Choices for Cheney Policy Workshop
c/o Community Development Dept.
City of Cheney
112 Anderson Road
Cheney, WA 99004

I have serious concerns about the expansion of the urban growth area boundary in the region of Cheney that is south of the Columbia Plateau Trail, and labeled 21 SE Cheney on your maps. Extending the existing boundary into that region encroaches upon the Turnbull NWR stewardship area. That area is part of a unique collection of wetlands and habitat that act as a buffer between urban Cheney and Turnbull NWR. Development there could have serious impacts on water quality and actual loss of water that is critical to the refuge. Many thousands of birds, animals and plants benefit from Turnbull NWR. The citizens of our region, in turn benefit.

Instead of developing in a critically sensitive area, why not consider areas to the north and west that are much more conducive to the development of urban infrastructure? The issue of public safety is also a concern in the SE Cheney description. Two railroad crossings already present problems for the Terra Vista development. Increased traffic and increased population in that part of town would require major changes which could cost the City of Cheney large sums of money.

The City of Cheney has a great opportunity to preserve a landscape that would be envied by many communities. Maintaining the current UGA, in the area defined above, saves sensitive habitat, that once disturbed, can never be regained. Let's make the right decision and look elsewhere for urban growth.

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