FERRY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 28, 2015

Chairwoman Lorna Johnson called the January 28, 2015 meeting of the Planning Commission to order. Commissioners Mickey Woolley, Tamra Stevens, Ron O'Halloran and Saundra Richartz were also present. Irene Whipple was present from the Planning Department. Commissioner Brad Miller was also in attendance. Ron O'Halloran completed the Open Public Meeting Training.

The Planning Commission discussed Habitats and Species of Local Importance and made the following changes to the Critical Areas Ordinance #14-03.

- Section 9.01 (2) 1st paragraph: Add to the end of the paragraph: "These species are:
  1) Columbia Spotted Frog
  2) Western Toad
  3) Sagebrush Lizard
  4) Golden Eagle
  5) Northern Goshawk
  6) Flammulated Owl
  7) Black-backed Woodpecker
  8) White-headed Woodpecker
  9) Lewis' Woodpecker
 10) Pileated Woodpecker
 11) Vaux's Swift
 12) Western Grebe
 13) Wolverine
 14) Townsend's Big-eared Bat
 15) Preble's Shrew
 16) Umatilla Dace
 17) Silver-bordered Fritillary
 18) California Floater"

- Section 9.02 after last paragraph: "Those current habitat and species have the following designation of a Habitat and Species of Local Importance:
  1) Columbia Spotted Frog. Columbia spotted frogs are highly aquatic, inhabiting marshes and marshy edges of ponds, streams, and lakes. Habitats of primary association, i.e. wetlands, streams, ponds and riparian areas are designated as Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the Columbia spotted frog. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species: Volume III, November 1997.
  2) Western Toad. Western toads are found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from desert springs to mountain wetlands, and it ranges into various upland habitats around ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and slow-moving rivers and streams. It digs its own burrow in loose soil or uses those uses those of small mammals, or shelters under logs or rocks. The eggs and larvae develop in shallow areas of ponds, lakes, or reservoirs, or in pools of slow-moving streams. The riparian habitat described above are designated Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the Western Toad. Reference: NatureServe Explorer Concept Reference: Frost, D. R. 1985 Amphibian species of the world.
  3) Sagebrush Lizard. The sagebrush lizard is found in a variety of vegetative types including sagebrush and bunchgrass-dominated dominated areas. The above described habitat are designated as Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the sagebrush lizard. Reference: Draft Reptile Use of Shrubsteppe and Conservation Reserve Program Habitats in Eastern Washington, USA."
4) Golden Eagle. Golden eagles are commonly associated with open, arid plateaus deeply cut by streams and canyons, western shrub-slope and grassland communities and transition zones between shrub, grassland and forested habitat. Nests generally are located on cliffs and are occasionally located in trees. Land owners must comply with the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act to avoid impacting eagles. Ferry County designates as Habitats and Species of Local Importance 980’ of an active breading site or roost. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendation for Washington’s Priority Species: Volume IV, 2003.

5) Northern Goshawk. The habitat requirements of the Northern goshawk can be split into three functional divisions: nest areas, post-fledging family area, and the foraging area. Nests occur in mature or older forest. Habitats for post-fledging family areas are structurally complex forests. Foraging areas tend to be in stands of larger diameter trees. Mature complex forests are designated Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the northern goshawk with the additional protection of minimized human disturbance in active nest areas between March 1 and September 30. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Species: Volume IV, 2003.

6) Flammulated Owl. This species are typically found in mid-elevation coniferous forests containing mature to old, open canopy yellow pine (ponderosa pine) and Jeffrey pine, Douglas fir, and grand fir. Habitats are on ridges and upper third of slopes where the uppermost canopy layer is formed by trees at least 200 years old. The above described habitat is designated Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the flammulated owl. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Species: Volume IV, 2003.

7) Black-backed Woodpecker. Black-backed woodpeckers primarily inhabit standing dead lodgepole pine, ponderosa pine, western larch and mixed coniferous forests and are attracted to disturbed forests because of the abundance of insects that are particularly abundant following a disturbance event. Habitat designation for the Black-backed woodpecker is pine-dominated, mixed-conifer forest in mature or old-growth condition. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Species: Volume IV, 2003.

8) White-headed Woodpecker. White-headed woodpeckers are primarily associated with open-canopied, mature and old-growth ponderosa pine forests. They require large, decayed snags for nesting and roosting while they forage primarily in the bark of large ponderosa pines. The above described habitat is designated as Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the white-headed woodpecker. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Species: Volume IV, 2003.

9) Lewis’ Woodpecker. The Lewis’ woodpecker prefers a forested habitat with an open canopy and a shrubby understory, with snags available for nest sites and hawking perches. The above described habitat is designated as Habitat and Species of Local Importance for the Lewis’ woodpecker. Reference: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Species: Volume IV, 2003.

The Planning Commission will continue their review of the Habitat and Species of Local Importance at the next meeting on February 11, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.