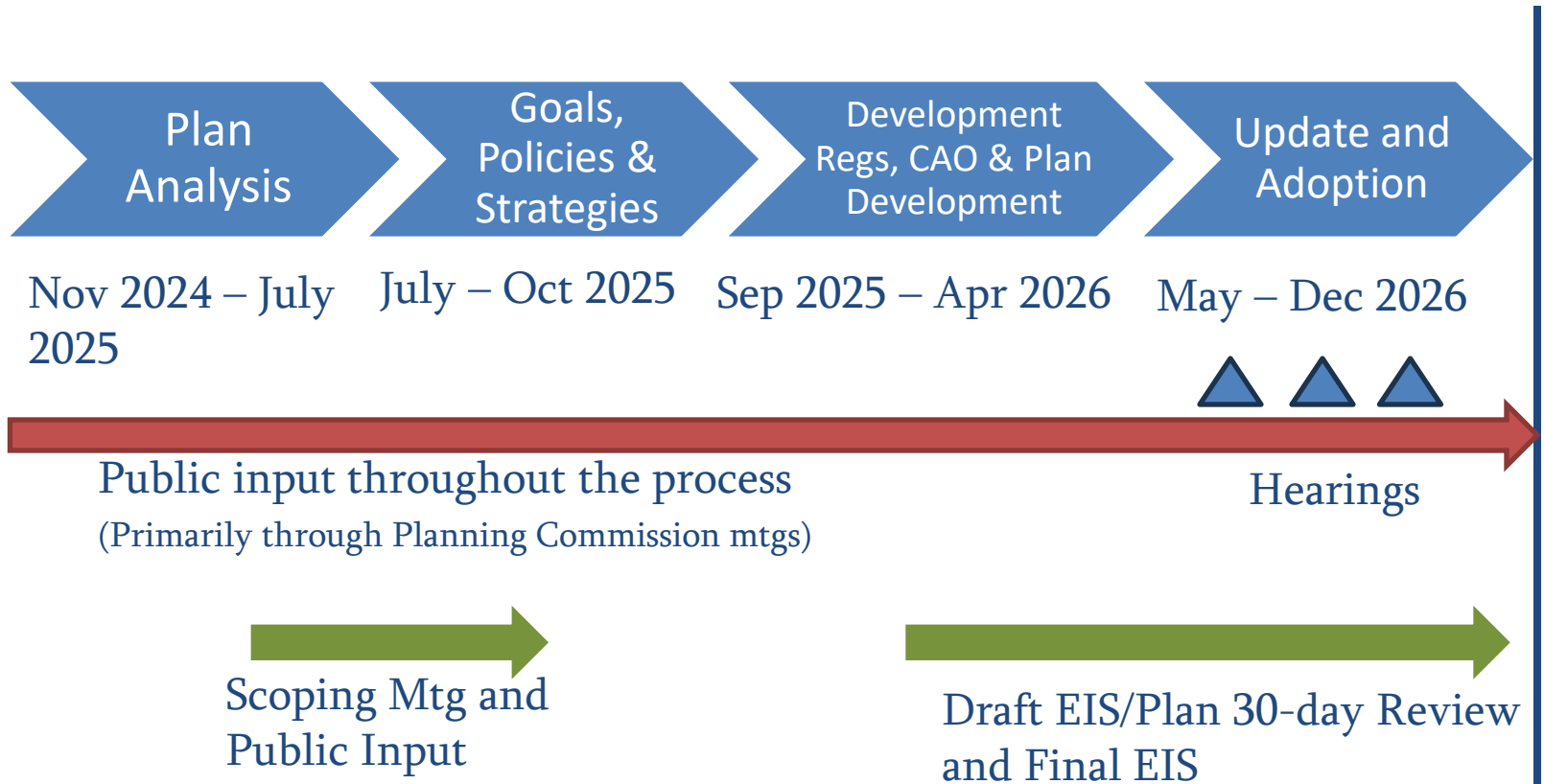


Benton County Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan 2026 Update



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Timeline



Presentation Overview

DRAFT Elements:

- Natural Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Economic Development
- Capital Facilities
- Utilities



Natural Resources



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Natural Resources

- See tracked changes version for details
- Updated description of agriculture uses
- More detail on mining/mineral lands and resources
- Added reference to Groundwater Nitrate Action Plan
- Updated the Rural Water Supply Program description
- Expanded and updated discussion on WDFW Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) and shrubsteppe conditions
- Included discussion of draft shrubsteppe mitigation program



Parks and Recreation



Parks and Recreation

- See tracked changes version for details
- Adopts the latest County Parks Plan by reference (if it ends up being approved soon)
- Added discussion on the Badger Canyon DNR property being sought through DNR Trust Land Transfer process
- New section (8.4.1) added under Future Considerations on Open Space preservation
- Updated planned capital improvements

Economic Development



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Economic Development

- Adopts the latest County Economic Development plan (2024) and 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) by reference
- Integrates the Industrial Lands Inventory and Energy Overlay analyses, as complements to overall strategy
- Trims outdated details
- Emphasizes role of ag, tourism, Hanford remediation and industrial development in diverse economy
- Agritourism and Plymouth industrial development provide an opportunity to help ag economy

Capital Facilities



Capital Facilities

- Emphasized the coordination with Cities on Capital Facility Plans in UGAs
- Updated Table 9-1 with latest improvements planned by school districts, fire districts, and utility providers
- Deleting discussion from Fire Districts and incorporating findings into Wildlands Urban Interface memo (under development)
- Added in equity and environmental justice considerations
- Expanded CIP description and updates integration

Utilities



Utilities

- Added new sections on wind and solar energy
- Made other minor edits and updates
 - Now 6 organizations can serve as Satellite Management Agencies for water utilities
 - Updated plan references (e.g., Solid Waste Management Plan 2023)



Next Steps

- April PC Workshop
- Addressing remaining items
 - Agri-tourism
 - Wildlands Urban Interface memo
 - Updates to County development regulations
 - Shrubsteppe mitigation bank
- SEPA EIS Review and Public Meetings (late Apr-May)
- State agencies 60-day review (Apr – June)
- Address public and agency comments (July/Aug)
- Planning Commission Hearing and recommendation
- Board of County Commission action



Additional Questions/Comments?



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