



## Alternative Growth Strategies: The Rural Village Concept

The Cascade Agenda is working on projects that will test ways to stop sprawl by transferring development rights off rural and resource lands and clustering that development in old-fashioned rural neighborhoods of modest homes and small lots, built with new green technologies and design. The small developments would be called Rural Villages.

Each Rural Village could **permanently conserve thousands of acres** of working farms, forests and natural lands while providing housing options in the rural areas – all using the private market. This is a huge savings – without asking the state/ local governments or organizations to buy the land.

Rural Villages **will not create additional growth**. Rather they will condense and minimize the footprint of the current development pressure by transferring the same amount of development that would otherwise happen on rural and resource lands to the Rural Village.

We need to rethink current development practices in the rural areas, because large lot zoning is completely fracturing our landscape – wasting all the natural and economic values those lands offer us today. Even if we encourage most of the state's future populations to live in our cities, a small number of people will want to make their homes in the rural area. **Over 60,000 acres of Washington's farms and forests are converted to development every year.**

### **The Rural Village concept has broad support:**

- Washington Farm Forestry Association
- Washington State Grange
- Audubon WA
- Washington Association of Counties
- Green Diamond
- Washington Forest Protection Association
- Transportation Choices
- Washington Realtors
- King County, etc.