

Mineral deposits flank growth area

Do you want a gravel pit in your backyard?

If you don't, you might be interested in what's happening with the Bend area's comprehensive land use plan.

Deschutes County's major deposits of gravel and other minerals are on the western fringes of Bend's urban growth boundary, and the county needs special mining zones that won't conflict with residential

development, Lorin Morgan, county planning director, said Thursday.

Morgan said there may be conflicts between upcoming development west of the city and "important aggregate deposits" identified in a recent state geological study.

He told a group of about 75 persons at a public hearing on the urban area's land use plan that the western borders of the city could be zoned to allow for both mining and new homes.

Zoning standards could be developed that would create buffer zones between gravel pits and residences to protect the residences.

He said those standards must be considered while the plan is being updated in the next two months.

Thursday's meeting was held to give the public a chance to comment on the plan, which was completed last year.

State law requires the plan to be updated each year, and citizen advisory groups will be working to do that in coming months.

Morgan said there will be no more public hearings until after the advisory groups complete their work. He said city and county planners are looking for more people to serve on the groups and interested persons may contact the city or county planning department.

Tempers approach boil at mine rules hearing

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When Deschutes County's surface mine operators and the people who live near mining areas get together it's like watching an old pot simmer on the back burner.

Every once in a while a hot spot develops on the bottom and threatens to turn the simmer into a boil. If the cook doesn't turn down the heat or lift the pot off the burner for a few seconds, the whole mix begins to rumble and shake.

The chief cook Thursday was Abe Young, county commission chairman. "I'm about ready to call a halt to this whole thing," was the way he got the pan off the burner.

The occasional hot spots were among the surface mine operators and mine-area neighbors who met in a "workshop" discussion Thursday with the three county commissioners and a planning department staff member.

The mine operators recently won a revision of the ordinance that details the specific regulations; now they seek changes in the overall policy, which is contained in the comprehensive plan adopted by the county last November.

They have been watched, and often fought, every step of the

way by the people who live at the periphery of the open-pit operations and the sites slated for future mining.

The neighbors' groups have won some leverage along the way, also. For example, a public hearing is required when a mine operator wants an area rezoned from a "reserve" status to an active one.

The extent to which "the public" can get involved has been an issue from the beginning. It was still an issue Thursday.

"You're trying to let the public control the miners' business," complained mine owner Bob Coats.

"We don't mind some controls, but we want to be allowed to operate," he said during an earlier exchange at the meeting.

But when he began another comment with, "You people that don't have a dime invested," he drew an angry response from Bend attorney Owen Panner, the advocate for the neighbors' groups.

"I resent the comment (that mine-area neighbors have nothing invested)," Panner said. "Many of them have their life savings invested in a home and property."

Other long-standing issues simmered along, occasionally

erupting into a boil and prompting another "I'll call a halt" from Young.

Miners feel that if a property owner knew the mine was there when he moved in along the periphery, then he has no reason to squawk.

The neighbors counter that they didn't necessarily know the adjacent land was headed for future use as a gravel pit when they bought their property.

Mine operators are leery of the phrase, "in the public interest," apparently because it conjures up visions of a lone miner being outnumbered by hoards of non-miners at an emotion-laden public hearing.

The neighbors' groups are likewise leery of any move by the miners to delete "in the public interest" from any part of the regulations and policies.

The two groups did reach tentative agreement Thursday on some of the issues. Brian Christensen, planning department staff member, will try to come up with specific language acceptable to both groups.

No date was set for another workshop session. The miners' proposed plan amendments are slated for a hearing before the commissioners, but no date has been set for that either.

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Oregon Population Growth

Deschutes Leads Big Boom

PORTLAND (UPI) — The 1970s was a decade of the big boom in population for some of Oregon's 36 counties, while others stayed about even and two even lost people despite the state gaining a total of 525,911.

This is according to preliminary 1980 census figures released by the Bureau of Census which gave Oregon a count of 2,617,444, up 25.1 percent from 10 years earlier.

But some areas had a growth up to double that percentage, led by Deschutes County which climbed from 30,442 in 1970 to 61,968 in 1980. Morrow County, site of a coal-fired power plant and other developments near the Columbia River, went to 7,525 from 4,465.

Washington County had the largest overall jump in population and one of the biggest percentage increases, climbing from 157,920 to 245,633.

Clackamas County, also was well above the state's overall percentage climb, going from 166,088 to 239,062.

Multnomah, Oregon's smallest county in size, easily

retained its spot as the most densely compacted despite a change of less than 1 percent, edging slightly upward from 554,668 to 558,877. The state's second most populated county, Lane, had about a 25 percent gain, up to 273,266 from 215,401.

Marion County, where the state capitol is located and many of its headquarters and custodial units, gained about one-third population as it went from 151,309 to 204,454.

Jackson County continued to lead all other southern Oregon areas in number of new arrivals during the decade, up from 94,533 to 131,738. However, Josephine County had a bigger percentage growth as it went from 35,746 to 56,015.

Klamath lost its spot to Deschutes as the most populated county east of the Cascades during the decade and barely stayed ahead of Umatilla County for the No. 2 spot. Klamath at 59,002, up from 50,021, had only 162 more people than Umatilla, which at 58,840 was up from 44,923.

Crook County was another

popular growth area in central Oregon, rising from 9,985 to 13,097, and neighbor, Jefferson was not far behind, from 8,548 to 11,556.

The state's largest county, Harney, retained its role of having more than a square mile for every one of its inhabitants, with 8,306 residents and 10,185 square miles. In 1970 Harney had 7,215 people.

Malheur, with 9,925 square miles the state's second largest county, was up to 26,891 from 23,169; while third-place Lake, 8,340 square miles, about matched Harney in area-for-person at 7,523, up from 6,343.

One of the biggest counties west of the Cascades, Douglas with 5,089 square miles, was listed with 93,100 residents, up from 71,743. Yamhill had an even bigger percentage growth, going from 40,213 to 55,230 and close were Polk, up to 45,201 from 35,349; Linn from 71,914 to 87,743 and Benton from 53,776 to 68,078.

Along the coast, Lincoln led the way in going up from 25,755 to 35,315; while Coos

kept the most populated title, listing 63,930 people, up from 56,515. For other coastal counties the new and old figures were: Clatsop, 32,467 and 28,473; Tillamook, 21,170 and 18,034, and Curry, 16,935 and 13,006.

Among other counties along the Columbia River, Columbia gained about the state's average, from 28,790 to 35,704; Hood River grew from 13,187 to 15,810, Wasco went from 20,133 to 21,711 and Sherman nudged ahead from 2,139 to 2,177.

Gilliam was one of the two counties losing population, declining from 2,342 to 2,061. Wheeler made the more square-miles-than-people list, dropping from 1,849 to 1,511 residents, who live on 1,707 square miles.

A couple of the counties in the mid rank of the 1970 census were at the same location for 1980. Baker with 16,127 was up from 14,919 a decade earlier when it was in the 25th spot, while Union with 23,935 was up from 19,377, but stayed No. 21.