



SAN JUAN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

135 Rhone Street, PO Box 947, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
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DATE RECEIVED
 S.J.C. DEPARTMENT OF
FEB 28 2020
 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Plan Text/SJC Code* Amendment Request

*San Juan County Code Titles 15, 16 & 18
 (Annual Docket)

APPLICANT INFORMATION:			
Name of Applicant:	<u>Jennifer D. De Groot</u>	Name of Agent:	_____
Address	<u>290 Mount Woolard Road</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Eastsound, WA 98245</u>	City, State, Zip	_____
Phone	<u>360 376-4013</u>	Phone	_____
Email	<u>Degroot_jennifer@yahoo.com</u>	E-mail	_____

This request is for a text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan or development regulations, not a comprehensive plan map amendment. I understand that this request will be reviewed according to the County's annual docket process.

<i>Jennifer D. De Groot</i>	<u>Jennifer D. De Groot</u>	<u>2/29/2020</u>
Signature	Printed Name	Date
Signature	Printed Name	Date

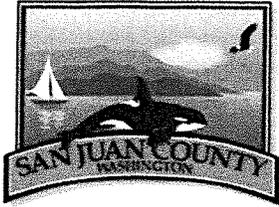
Please Describe the Proposed Amendments (attach additional pages if you need more space):

1. Comprehensive Plan – Describe proposed amendment and/or attach proposed text changes. List Comprehensive plan section, page numbers, title and policies proposed for amendment.

No amendments are being proposed to the Comprehensive Plan.

2. San Juan County Code Title 15, Title 16 or Title 18. Describe proposed amendment and/or attach proposed text changes. List code sections proposed for amendment.

I propose the nomination of coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) as a species of local importance in San Juan County, amending the county code as directed under SJCC 18.35.140 *Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas – Nomination of species or habitats of local importance.* If added to the revised



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county code, they would be listed under SJCC 18.35.115 *Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas – Types of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCAs)*.

Proposed text changes would include a listing this species with its common and scientific name, a habitat description and protection measures to be listed under SJCC18.35.135 *Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas – Additional protection recommendations and requirements for specific species and habitats*. Protective measures were largely drawn from the Best Available Science for land use planning for salmonids (Knight 2009). Text may include:

- Coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*)

Habitat description: Coastal cutthroat trout spawn and rear in small coastal streams, often preferring the upper most portions of streams (“headwaters”) too shallow for other salmonids. Most rear instream for one to two years before venturing into saltwater, while other life forms remain instream or in lakes for their entire life cycle and are called “residents”. They require cold, clear water year round for their survival. They prefer small substrates of gravel, free from silt, in well-oxygenated areas of streams to spawn and incubate their eggs. Upland areas, as riparian buffers or nearshore areas, provide important habitat: food source (insects), protection in the form of cover, water temperature regulation, and as a source of large woody debris that contributes to instream habitat, important for all life stages of coastal cutthroat trout.



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Protection measures: Maintain maximum buffer widths with native vegetation along streams and lakes as directed for Type F (type 2 or 3) streams under SJCC 18.35.130 and setbacks for shorelines and lakes over 20 acres under SJCC 18.50.330. Avoid activities that remove and disturb streambeds and streambanks. Maintain year-round stream flows and access (connectivity) to rearing, spawning and offshore areas. Discourage the ponding of upland areas and other activities that divert water away from streams, restricting the movement of trout within their watershed. Protect stream flows from harmful pollutants from agriculture, stormwater runoff, and other cumulative non-point source pollutants. Avoid the stocking of non-native trout and other non-native species in watersheds with known populations of coastal cutthroat trout.

Knight, K. 2009. Land Use Planning for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout. Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife. Olympia, Washington.

3. Why is the amendment being proposed?

Coastal cutthroat trout are naturally-occurring and naturally-reproducing 'salmonids' (includes salmon and trout, both in the family Salmonidae) documented in San Juan County (Glasgow et al. 2019; Glasgow et al. 2016; Boessow 2007; Barsh 2010). Up until recently, very little was known about coastal cutthroat trout. Locals caught sea-run cutthroat in watersheds and nearshore areas throughout the county since the 1950s (Boessow 2007). Cutthroat trout are sensitive to environmental degradation, requiring cool, clean water year-round for their survival, and as such, are vulnerable to development. Coastal cutthroat trout in the county are a mix of native and hybridized stock (Glasgow et al. 2019). All populations are small (<25 breeding individuals) and extremely vulnerable to extirpation due to habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, overharvest, competition with introduced species, and anthropogenic climate change.

Barsh (2010) documented the recent extirpation of one population of coastal cutthroat trout on Orcas Island due to the development of a upland pond near Bay Head Marina. Likely many others have occurred.

In 2018, the San Juan County Salmon Recovery Program and Stream Action Team, lead by Byron Rot, documented the stocking of non-native trout in Doe Bay Creek, Orcas Island and requested greater enforcement by the State. To date, the State has not removed these non-native trout and off-island WDFW certified stockers continue to stock ponds in the county without a lack of understanding for native stocks of fish within the county. Such practices present a significant risk to native coastal cutthroat trout populations through direct competition, predation, and loss of genetic diversity through hybridization.

This amendment is being proposed to formally recognize coastal cutthroat trout as

species of local importance in an attempt to better protect the remaining populations of these salmonids in San Juan County and ultimately, to raise public awareness for these populations.

Barsh, R. June 2010. Structural hydrology and limiting summer conditions of San Juan County fish bearing streams. KWIÁHT: Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea, Lopez, WA.

Boessow, S. 2007. State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Science Team Memo to Hal Beecher (retired WRIA 2 Salmon Recovery Coordinator), dated Aug. 10, 2007.

Glasgow, J., De Groot, J., Barsh, R., O'Connell, M., and N. Gayeski1. 2016. Evaluating the Genetic Composition and Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) in the San Juan Islands, Washington.

Glasgow, J., De Groot, J., Small, M. 2019. Genetic Composition and Conservation Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) in the San Juan Islands, Washington. Conservation Genetics 21:181-186.

Knight, K. 2009. Land Use Planning for Salmon, Steelhead and Trout. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Olympia, Washington.

4. How is the proposed amendment consistent with the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A), Comprehensive Plan and development regulations?

Both laws require local governments to provide special consideration for the protection of anadromous fish resources. Specifically, under RCW 36.70A.172, it states: “counties and cities shall give special consideration to conservation or protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries”. Coastal cutthroat trout have both anadromous (ie. sea-run) and resident (non-anadromous) life forms. It is important to note, however, that a resident coastal cutthroat trout may produce anadromous progeny. Given limited understanding for these differences, it would be prudent to protect both life forms.

Known populations of coastal cutthroat trout are documented from early water type assessments for San Juan County (WFC, 2003-8) and recent studies (Glasgow et al. 2019; Boessow 2007; Glasgow et al. 2016). For coastal cutthroat trout, these include: Doe Bay Creek, These include: Cascade Creek, Doe Bay Creek, West Beach Creek, and Victorian Creek on Orcas Island and Garrison Creek on San Juan Island. All of these areas are classified in San Juan County as F-Type streams, and protected as such. Upland areas within these watersheds could afford greater protection

Boessow, S. 2007. State of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Science Team
Memo to Hal Beecher (retired WRIA 2 Salmon Recovery Coordinator), dated Aug. 10, 2007.

Glasgow, J., De Groot, J., Barsh, R., O'Connell, M., and N. Gayeski1. 2016. Evaluating the Genetic Composition and Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*)

Glasgow, J., De Groot, J., Small, M. 2019. Genetic Composition and Conservation Status of Coastal Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki clarki*) in the San Juan Islands, Washington. Conservation Genetics 21:181-186.

in the San Juan Islands, Washington.

Wild Fish Conservancy. 2003-2008. Puget Sound Water Type Assessment: San Juan County. <http://wildfishconservancy.org/maps?center=-122.97,48.6>.

Wild Fish Conservancy 2010. Final Report: Garrison Creek Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study.

5. Does this proposal impact an Urban Growth Area (UGA)? Lopez Village, Eastsound and the Town of Friday Harbor are the only UGAs in the County.

- Yes, indicate UGA _____
- No **Not unless a coastal cutthroat trout population is found within these Urban Growth Areas.**

6. Does this proposal increase population or employment capacity?

It is unknown whether this proposed amendment would increase population or employment capacity for San Juan County.