

Comprehensive Plan Goals, Objectives, and Policies

FLUE Policy 1.1.2: *Land Use Categories.* The County shall implement the following land use categories as shown on the Future Land Use Map.

Land Use Categories	Base Density/Intensity
Rural/Agricultural	Non-residential – up to 0.4 FAR maximum
Employment Center	Non-residential – up to 0.5 FAR maximum

FLUE Policy 1.1.11: *Rezoning.* The zoning amendment criteria in the LDR shall be used to determine if a rezoning request to a new district is appropriate for a given property, in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan. The following general criteria, at a minimum, will be considered as part of the rezoning review process:

- (1) Location, availability and capacity of public services and facilities.
- (2) Proximity to similar densities/intensities.
- (3) Location within transportation network.
- (4) Environmental protection

FLUE Objective 1.3: *Rural/Agricultural Use Category Defined.*

The intent of the Rural Land Use Category is primarily agricultural, pastoral, and rural residential development. This district is designed to accommodate traditional agricultural uses and conservatory measures, where appropriate, while protecting the rural areas of the County. The intent of this category is to permit a reasonable use of the property, at a gross density of no more than one dwelling per ten (10) acres. At the same time, the intent is to prevent the creation of conditions, which would endanger, damage, or destroy the agricultural base of the County, the environmental resources of the County, the potable water supply and the wildlife resources. The first priority of this category is agricultural use.

MEASURABLE TARGET: Total acres taken out of Rural/Agricultural Land Use category.

FLUE Policy 1.3.1: The primary use and function of the Rural/Agricultural areas, as designate on the Future Land Use Map, shall be to protect and encourage agricultural activities and to protect unique native habitats and maintain open

space, while providing for rural residential uses.

FLUE Policy 1.3.2: Agricultural uses, as defined by F.S. 193.461, are permitted within the Rural/Agricultural category. Additional setbacks are required for intense uses when adjacent to non-agricultural future land use categories and zoning districts.

FLUE Policy 1.3.4: The rezoning of lands to industrial may be allowed within the Rural/Agricultural category, only when permitted by the Board of County Commissioners in conjunction with approval for a Special Exception or Planned Unit Development. Any Industrial use shall be buffered and spaced appropriately to minimize potential impacts on adjacent agricultural and residential uses. The following minimum standards shall apply:

- (1) A minimum of 10 acres;
- (2) Shall be appropriately buffered from agricultural and residential uses and zoning districts;
- (3) Maximum Floor Area Ratio of 0.7;
- (4) Shall submit and receive site plan or preliminary plat (PUD) approval in conjunction with such zoning request;
- (5) Exclude electrical generating facilities (power plants)

FLUE Policy 1.3.5: Property rezoned to Industrial is intended for uses of a nature not permitted within an urban center, new community, or other non-industrial area. Those uses include:

- (1) Sales and service of trucks and heavy equipment;
- (2) Wholesale establishments, warehousing, bulk storage;
- (3) Asphalt and cement plants, saw mills;
- (4) Railroad siding;
- (5) Manufacturing, warehousing, storing, processing, canning, packing, slaughter houses, marinas, commercial boat houses, commercial boat storage, boat building, boat yards;
- (6) Storage of agricultural vehicles not used on subject property for agricultural purposes;
- (7) In and outdoor firing range
- (8) Sale and repair of new & used automobiles, motorcycles, trucks & tractors, mobile homes, boats, automotive vehicle parts & accessories, heavy machinery & equipment, farm equipment, retail establishments for sale of farm supplies;
- (9) Bulk storage yards, not including bulk storage of flammable liquids, subject to

the provisions of the County or State Fire Codes;
(10) And other similar uses

FLUE Objective 1.8: Employment Center Land Use Category Defined. The Employment Center Land Use category promotes multiple types of non-residential, employment generating land uses.

FLUE Policy 1.8.2: Employment Center Land Use Category Uses. Non-residential land uses, such as, industrial, office, and institutional. Support uses to serve the employment center are also permitted.

FLUE Policy 1.8.4: A mixture of uses shall be provided within the Employment Center category:

- (1) A minimum of 50 percent of the area shall be utilized for Industrial and non-service based employment uses.
- (2) No greater than 10 percent of the area shall be utilized for commercial/retail uses.
- (3) Ancillary commercial uses in support of manufacturing or assembly of on-site products (display/sales) are permitted and will not be measured against the commercial mixture of the category.

FLUE Policy 1.8.5: All development within an Employment Center Land Use category shall connect to DeSoto County public water and wastewater facilities.

FLUE Objective 1.12: Conservation Overlay Designation (COD). The Interim 2040 Conservation Overlay Map (FLUEMS 4) identifies public and private lands that may possess environmental limitations, such as floodplain, wetland, and other environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to, sloping topography subject to soil erosion, wildlife habitat areas, hydric soils, and special vegetative communities, but have not been confirmed as such and shall be protected to the greatest extent possible. Modifications of the boundaries are permitted upon submittal of data and analysis, or field inspection by qualified personnel which support the establishment of a more appropriate boundary.

MEASURABLE TARGET: Acres of habitat and wetlands or species to be impacted or preserved as identified through environmental surveys, Environmental Resource Permits, and other actions in response to development in environmentally sensitive

environments.

FLUE Policy 1.12.3: *Conservation Overlay Designation Development Standards.*

(1) A final determination of the suitability for development of any individual parcel, as it relates to a Conservation Overlay area on the Future Land Use Map, shall be determined prior to issuance of any development approval.

(2) The Conservation Overlay Designation area on the Future Land Use Map is not to be considered the exact boundary of the conservation area, but to act as an indicator of a potential conservation area. The exact boundary shall be determined by an environmental site study by a qualified professional at the expense of the Developer and submitted for a determination to the Southwest Florida Water Management District or other agency with jurisdiction.

(3) The Conservation Overlay Designation area is not all inclusive and other areas that do not fall within the COD boundaries that meet the definition of being environmentally sensitive areas are also subject to the regulations affecting them. These areas include protected plant and animal habitat.

(4) Development proposals shall require the submittal of an Environmental Site Study indicating as to the extent of the impact of development or redevelopment for any lands within Conservation Overlay Designation areas and other environmental concerns.

(5) Environmental Site Studies shall provide evidence and an inventory of wetlands; soils posing severe limitations to construction; unique habitat; endangered species of wildlife and plants; significant historic structures and/or sites; and areas prone to periodic flooding (areas within the 100-year floodplain).

(6) DeSoto County shall require identification of proposed impacts to the natural functions of any resources by any development or redevelopment that proposes to be placed in/on, to disturb, or to alter identified areas. Compensation and Mitigation plans shall also be provided.

(7) Such identification shall occur during the development review process and provide the opportunity for DeSoto County to review the proposed project so that direct and irreversible impacts on the identified resources are avoided, minimized, or in the extreme, mitigated.

(8) Natural resources discovered as a result of the required Environmental Site Study will be protected in accordance with state and federal law. The Environmental Site Study will require that a qualified professional analyze the natural functions of eco-systems and connectivity of resource corridors. A conservation easement, or other protective measure, may be required to protect the functions of natural resources. Mitigation may be allowed on a case-by-case

basis through the appropriate reviewing agencies.

(9) If an area is determined to be developable and not within the Conservation Overlay Designation, then the underlying future land use category shall apply.

FLUE Policy 1.12.4: Any development of a site which includes property determined to be in a Conservation Overlay Designation area, is required to submit a site-specific plan for approval. The plan shall include the clustering of density away from the protected areas and resources. Developments that include Conservation Overlay Designations, but cluster all development activities outside of the Overlay, may be reviewed via a Site Plan Approval process. The following restrictions shall apply to areas determined to be in the COD:

(1) Density transfers out of areas determined to be within the Conservation Area may occur on-site with the following density transfer allowed:

(a) Rural/Agricultural Land Uses shall be consistent with the underlying zoning

(b) Low Density Residential Land Uses shall be 1 unit per 4 acres.

(c) Medium Density Residential, Neighborhood Mixed Use, and General Mixed Use Districts shall be 1 unit per 2 acres.

(2) Development within the Conservation Overlay area shall be restricted to 1 unit per 10 acres and a FAR of 0.1, unless otherwise provided for herein. All development shall be directed away from wetlands.

FLUE Policy 1.12.6: The County shall prohibit all development within, and direct development away from, wetlands, unless otherwise approved by the appropriate reviewing agency. Site enhancement for conservation purposes and Best Management Practices including, without limitation, the use of isolation berms to protect water quality and prevent wildlife from migrating into developed areas shall not be deemed “development” for the purposes of this policy, when used pursuant to phosphate mining.

(1) When wetland impacts cannot be avoided, DeSoto County shall require a specific management plan to be prepared by the developer, which results in no net loss of wetlands or wetland functions and which includes necessary modifications to the proposed development, specific setback and buffers, and the location of development away from site resources, to protect and preserve the natural functions of the resource.

(2) The minimum setback shall be 15 feet and the average of all setbacks from the wetland resource shall be 25 feet, unless otherwise permitted by the appropriate reviewing agency. Best Management Practices, including, without limitation, the use of isolation berms to protect water quality and prevent wildlife from migrating

into developed areas shall be permitted within the setback areas, when used pursuant to phosphate mining.

(3) Areas designated as natural buffers shall preserve all natural vegetative cover, except where drainage ways, access ways or phosphate mining corridors are approved to cross the buffer, or when contrary to Best Management Practices. Buffers may be supplemented only with native trees, shrubs and ground covers.

FLUE Policy 1.12.8: On all existing parcels of land, development shall be located away from wetlands and floodplains on the upland portion of the site, unless otherwise permitted by an authorized agency and permissible within this Plan. Where no upland exists, development may occur so long as all applicable environmental permitting requirements can be satisfied. All future subdivision of land shall contain adequate uplands for the permitted use.

FLUE Policy 1.14.2: Use compatibility. Compatibility between uses will be defined by level of density and intensity rather than by use, with the exception of large-scale public uses such as airports, regional hospitals, refineries and correctional institutions.

FLUE Policy 1.16.2: The County shall direct development to areas where services and facilities are available to accommodate additional growth.

FLUE Policy 1.17.2: Land uses that generate high traffic counts shall be encouraged to locate adjacent to arterial and collector roads.

FLUE Policy 1.17.3: The County shall require an adequate quantity of on-site parking to accommodate land uses, and encourage shared parking facilities for multiple uses.

FLUE Policy 1.17.4: The County shall require new developments to provide safe and convenient on-site pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow.

Conservation Element

Groundwater Resources:

Policy 1.2.10: All requests for development shall be reviewed to ensure that potential impacts of the proposed development do not degrade the water quality

and quantity of groundwater resources.

Policy 1.2.15: DeSoto County shall protect groundwater recharge areas throughout the County by requiring properly functioning stormwater management systems meeting drainage LOS standards and a minimum percentage of 15% pervious open space for all non-residential development projects and a minimum of 25% pervious open space for residential development projects. This may be further restricted in the LDRs through individual zoning districts and other development performance standards.

Surface Water Resources:

Policy 1.4.3: The County shall identify and require the creation of upland buffer zones, in accordance with the regulations of the water management districts, between development and surface water, environmentally sensitive areas, and wetlands in order to protect these natural resources from the activities and impacts of development.

Wetland Protection:

Objective 1.5: Wetland Protection. Wetlands and the natural functions of wetlands shall be conserved, protected, and restored from activities which alter their physical and hydrological nature to ensure the filtration of water to enhance water quality, provide flood control, maintain wildlife habitat, and offer recreational opportunities, which enhance the quality of life in DeSoto County.

Policy 1.5.1: The County, as part of its development review process, shall require the coordination of development plans with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District or other appropriate regulatory agency, to assist in monitoring land uses which may impact potential wetlands as shown on the National Wetlands Inventory (shown as part of the Conservation Overlay Area on the FLUM).

Policy 1.5.2: The County shall require that all development proposals be accompanied by evidence that an inventory of wetlands; soils posing severe limitations construction; unique habitat; endangered species of wildlife and plants; significant historic structures and/or sites; has been conducted.

Policy 1.9.16: Developers shall be required to identify wildlife habitat, and endangered and threatened species as part of the development review process and shall be required to submit mitigation measures for review as part of the County's development review process.