

**CCC 31.02.145, Mineral resource land issues.**

(1) Mineral resource lands in the County provide vitally needed construction materials to the residential, commercial and industrial sectors of the economy, as well as government agencies charged with road construction and maintenance. Our mineral resources are finite; a stable, low cost source of material can only be assured if measures are taken to protect the resource and allow it to be extracted.

(2) Mineral resources found in Clallam County include sand and gravel, rock, industrial minerals and metallic minerals. The Department of Natural Resources has identified likely locations of these mineral resources. Where these resources exist in rural areas, measures to ensure the continued extraction of these finite resources should be considered. Planning and land use regulations could achieve mineral resource land conservation in the following ways:

- (a) Overlay zoning on mineral resource lands giving priority for extraction over subdivision;
- (b) Exclusive zoning on mineral resource lands requiring extraction of resources before subdivision;
- (c) Forest land zoning with allowance for mineral extraction.

(3) Environmental impacts of mineral extraction can be substantial. Aggregate production temporarily obliterates entire mine-site ecosystems, but this loss can be mitigated with carefully sequenced reclamation. The effects of truck traffic can be a primary concern in designating construction aggregate mines. Damage to river beds can be another major impact of mining. Channel bar scalping can reduce the probability of flooding but can also change the river-bed morphology. Possible reduction of the quantity of groundwater is a concern in new mineral sites. Excavation breaching the lateral or seat-seals of perched aquifers can cause loss of water supplies and other damage. Washington State has several regulations which govern mineral extraction and associated impacts, including but not limited to: Surface Mining Act, Growth Management Act, Water Quality Standards, Shoreline Management Act, and the State Environmental Policy Act.