95.05 Purpose and Intent

1.   Trees and other vegetation are important elements of the physical environment. They are integral to White Salmon's community character and protect public health, safety and general welfare. Protecting, enhancing, and maintaining healthy trees and vegetation are key community values. The many benefits of healthy trees and vegetation contribute to White Salmon's quality of life by:

a.   Minimizing the adverse impacts of land disturbing activities and impervious surfaces such as runoff, soil erosion, land instability, sedimentation and pollution of waterways, thus reducing the public and private costs for stormwater control/treatment and utility maintenance;

b.   Improving the air quality by absorbing air pollutants, mitigating the urban heat island effect, assimilating carbon dioxide and generating oxygen, and decreasing the impacts of climate change;

c.   Reducing the effects of excessive noise pollution;

d.   Providing cost-effective protection from severe weather conditions with cooling effects in the summer months and insulating effects in winter;

e.   Providing visual relief and screening buffers;

f.   Providing recreational benefits;

g.   Providing habitat, cover, food supply and corridors for a diversity of fish and wildlife; and

h.   Providing economic benefit by enhancing local property values and contributing to the region's natural beauty, aesthetic character, and livability of the community.

2.   Tree and vegetation removal in urban areas has resulted in the loss to the public of these beneficial functions. The purpose of this chapter is to establish a process and standards to provide for the protection, preservation, replacement, proper maintenance, and use of significant trees, associated vegetation, and woodlands located in the City of White Salmon.

The intent of this chapter is to:

a.   Maintain and enhance canopy coverage provided by trees for their functions as identified above;

b.   Preserve and enhance the City of White Salmon's environmental, economic, and community character with mature landscapes;

c.   Promote site planning, building, and development practices that work to avoid removal or destruction of heritage and landmark trees on private property;

d.   Mitigate the consequences of required tree removal in land development through tree replacement with the goals of halting net loss and enhancing White Salmon's tree canopy to achieve an overall healthy tree canopy;

*follow Jan's suggestion to simply keep this ordinacne specific to Heritage trees & later create an additional tree ordinance (or continuation)

*Purpose and Intent

https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandZ95/KirklandZ95.html#95.05

*Certified Arborist.

"Certified Arborist" must be an individual that is currently certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and should possess a minimum of three years experience working directly with the protection of trees during construction and have experience with the likelihood of tree survival after construction. A certified arborist should be able to prescribe appropriate measures for the preservation of trees during land development.

*change landmark trees to 30" - seems to be the measurement more commonly used in other communities

*Heritage trees: oregon white oak 14" DBH or greater, other trees 18" DBH or greater

*Under definition: equation for finding DBH & diameter

*variance process can be waived by staff IF staff has determined heritage trees must be removed for reasonable use of property AND no more than 25% of heritage trees will be removed from property (OR switch to exemptions/permits process instead of variance)

*chart for replanting that determines necessity based on size of lot and how many trees remain

*Buffer for heritage trees determined by arborist - dependent on tree species and root structure (or "tree protective zone")

*triple fine for unauthorized damage or removal of landmark trees ($15,000).

*unable to determine diameter at DBH for trees that have been removed without authorization, in which case diameter will be measured at top of stump - for fine enforcement and replanting

mitigation

*section for tree removal not associated with development?

*3 year maintenance of mitigated replacement trees.

*replacement standards of watering and mulching
https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandZ95/KirklandZ95.html#95.34

*determination of whether replacement trees are necessary:
https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandZ95/KirklandZ95.html#95.33

*in developments - look at cottage infill and see how trees can be preserved in this manner (like wyers end)

*instruction from beginning of planning process so that trees are considered & spared through how land is subdivided, where streets and utilities are placed, allowable sizes of houses, and house placements.
https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandZ95/KirklandZ95.html#95.30

*tree preservation practices during construction
https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/Kirkland/html/KirklandZ95/KirklandZ95.html#95.34
95.34 Tree and Soil Protection during Development Activity

Prior to development activity or initiating tree removal on the site, vegetated areas, individual trees and soil to be preserved shall be protected from potentially damaging activities pursuant to the following standards:

1.   Placing Materials near Trees. No person may conduct any activity within the protected area of any tree designated to remain, including, but not limited to, operating or parking equipment, placing solvents, storing building material or stockpiling any materials, or dumping concrete washout or other chemicals. During construction, no person shall attach any object to any tree designated for protection.

2.   Protective Barrier. Before development, land clearing, filling or any land alteration, the applicant shall:

a.   Erect and maintain readily visible temporary protective tree fencing along the limits of disturbance which completely surrounds the protected area of all retained trees, groups of trees, vegetation and native soil. Fences shall be constructed of chain link and be at least six (6) feet high, unless other type of fencing is authorized by the Planning Official.

b.   Install highly visible signs spaced no further than 15 feet along the entirety of the protective tree fence. Said sign must be approved by the Planning Official and shall state at a minimum "Tree and Soil Protection Area, Entrance Prohibited" and provide

the City phone number for code enforcement to report violations.

c.   Prohibit excavation or compaction of soil or other potentially damaging activities within the barriers; provided, that the Planning Official may allow such activities approved by a qualified professional and under the supervision of a qualified professional retained and paid for by the applicant.

d.   Maintain the protective barriers in place for the duration of the project until the Planning Official authorizes their removal.

e.   Ensure that any approved landscaping done in the protected zone subsequent to the removal of the barriers shall be accomplished with machinery from outside the protected zone or by hand.

f.   In addition to the above, the Planning Official may require the following:

1)   If equipment is authorized to operate within the protected zone, the soil and critical root zone of a tree must be covered with mulch to a depth of at least six (6) inches or with plywood, steel plates or similar material in order to protect roots and soil from damage caused by heavy equipment.

2)   Minimize root damage by hand-excavating a 2-foot-deep trench, at edge of critical root zone, to cleanly sever the roots of trees to be retained. Never rip or shred roots with heavy equipment.

3)   Corrective pruning performed on protected trees in order to avoid damage from machinery or building activity.

4)   Maintenance of trees throughout construction period by watering and fertilizing.

3.   Grade.

a.   The grade shall not be elevated or reduced within the critical root zone of trees to be preserved without the Planning Official's authorization based on recommendations from a qualified professional. The Planning Official may allow coverage of up to one-half (1/2) of the area of the tree's critical root zone with light soils (no clay) to the minimum depth necessary to carry out grading or landscaping plans, if it will not imperil the survival of the tree. Aeration devices may be required to ensure the tree's survival.

b.   If the grade adjacent to a preserved tree is raised such that it could slough or erode into the tree's critical root zone, it shall be permanently stabilized to prevent soil erosion and suffocation of the roots.

c.   The applicant shall not install an impervious surface within the critical root zone of any tree to be retained without the authorization of the Planning Official. The Planning Official may require specific construction methods and/or use of aeration devices to ensure the tree's survival and to minimize the potential for root-induced damage to the impervious surface.

d.   To the greatest extent practical, utility trenches shall be located outside of the critical root zone of trees to be retained. The Planning Official may require that utilities be tunneled under the roots of trees to be retained if the Planning Official determines that trenching would significantly reduce the chances of the tree's survival.

e.   Trees and other vegetation to be retained shall be protected from erosion and sedimentation. Clearing operations shall be conducted so as to expose the smallest practical area of soil to erosion for the least possible time. To control erosion, it is

encouraged that shrubs, ground cover and stumps be maintained on the individual lots, where feasible.

4.   Directional Felling. Directional felling of trees shall be used to avoid damage to trees designated for retention.

5.   Additional Requirements. The Planning Official may require additional tree protection measures that are consistent with accepted urban forestry industry practices.

7405 sq ft/43,560 = 0.1699x30 = 5.099 credits needed