

**CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE #784**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON ADOPTING
AMENDMENTS TO THE GOLD BAR CRITICAL AREAS ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Bar is a non-charter optional municipal code city as provided in Title 35A RCW, incorporated under the laws of the state of Washington, and subject to the Growth Management Act, Title 36.70A RCW; and

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act mandates that the City adopt development regulations to protect the functions and values of five (5) types of critical areas: wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, fish and wildlife habitat areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Bar Critical Areas Ordinance is incorporated by reference in Gold Bar Municipal Code 18.08.010, and contains the City's development regulations pertaining to the protection of critical areas located within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130, the City is required to periodically review and, if needed, revise its development regulations, including its critical areas regulations, to ensure its regulations comply with the goals and requirements of the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the last periodic review of the Gold Bar Critical Areas Ordinance was in 2016, with Ordinance 696 enacting necessary revisions; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.172 requires that when reviewing its Critical Areas Ordinance, the City must include Best Available Science in developing the regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas and to give special consideration to conservation and protection measures necessary to preserve or enhance anadromous fisheries; and

WHEREAS, in performing this periodic review, the City did extensive research in regards to the standards and requirements for regulating critical areas, has considered guidance available from state agencies, including the Department of Commerce and the Department of Ecology, and has considered various sources of Best Available Science and included it in developing its Critical Areas Ordinance, giving special consideration to anadromous fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the environmental impacts of the amendments to the Critical Areas Ordinance resulted in the issuance of a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) with no appeals filed; and

WHEREAS, in developing its Critical Areas Ordinance, the City provided for public participation, as demonstrated by the public record; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gold Bar City Council has considered the proposed Critical Areas Ordinance amendments and held a properly noticed public hearing on September 16th, 2026, so as to receive public testimony; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of September 16th, 2025 public hearing, the City Council voted to approve the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, the City has provided the Washington State Department of Commerce with notice of its intent to adopt the amendment(s); and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the entire public record, public comments, the Best Available Science, and staff recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the proposed amendments are necessary to ensure compliance with the goals and requirements of the Growth Management Act, and to complete its obligation for the 2025 periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130;

NOW THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF GOLD BAR ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section I, Amendments

Section II, Codification of Amendments

Section III, Severability

Section IV, Effective Date

Section I, Amendments

The Gold Bar Critical Areas Ordinance is amended as set forth in Exhibit A to this Ordinance.

Section II, Codification of Amendments

The City Council approves and adopts the proposed amendments without substantive change, and authorizes the City Clerk to codify the amendments to GBMC 18.08, and publish the amended code.

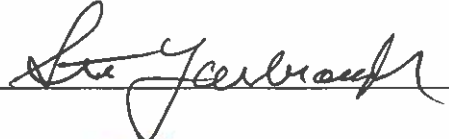
Section III, Severability

This ordinance is severable and if any portion of it shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section IV, Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect from, and after, its passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the Council for the City of Gold Bar on this 21st day of October, 2025.

Attest: , Steve Yarbrough, Mayor

Attest: , Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer

First Reading: 10/17/2025
Posted: 10/17/2025
Second Reading: 10/21/2025
Passed: 10/21/2025