

ORDINANCE NO. 2203

AN ORDINANCE prohibiting the removal of vegetation from steep and unstable slopes, adopting a penalty for violation thereof, and declaring an emergency.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMAS DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section I

The Council hereby adopts the following findings:

A. The City of Camas has numerous locations within its corporate limits that have either steep or potentially unstable slopes and that are covered with vegetation.

B. Development within the City has resulted in increased impermeable surfaces which in turn create additional storm water runoff and surface water thereby resulting in a greater risk of erosion and landslide.

C. As available land within the urban growth boundary is subdivided, there is increase in pressure to develop areas with steep or unstable slopes.

D. The City currently has no ordinance regulating vegetation removal from steep or unstable slopes.

E. Staff has been directed to prepare a draft ordinance for the regulation of vegetation removal on steep or unstable slopes.

F. Until such a regulation has been adopted, the public health, safety and welfare will be promoted by prohibiting any vegetation removal from steep and unstable slopes.

Section II

Definitions. For the purpose of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. "Steep slopes" shall mean areas characterized by slopes of fifteen (15%) percent or greater.

B. "Unstable slopes" shall mean any land potentially subject to landslides, severe erosion, or seismic activity. Unstable lands may have impermeable subsurface materials, and/or springs or seeping ground water during the wet season. Seismic areas are those lying along or adjacent to identified earthquake faults.

C. "Vegetation removal" shall mean the destruction of plant life and shall include cutting, clearing, pruning, killing by herbicide, burning, or any other method of removing all or any portion of plant life.

Section III

Prohibition. No person shall remove or cause to be removed any vegetation from any steep or unstable slope or from any area within 100 feet of any steep or unstable slope.

Section IV

Exceptions. This ordinance shall not apply to steep or unstable slopes containing less than 10,000 total square feet in area, nor to the removal of non-native blackberry vines.

Section V

Penalty. Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor and shall be punished by imprisonment for a maximum term of not more than one (1) year or by a fine in a maximum amount of not more than \$5,000.00, or by both such imprisonment and fine.

Section VI

Emergency. This ordinance is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and property, and shall be effective upon adoption.

PASSED by the Council and APPROVED by the Mayor this 10th day of May, 1999.

SIGNED: _____

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Clerk

APPROVED as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney