

III. Deep Creek Lake Code - Draft Version A

§ _____ PURPOSES. This subchapter recognizes that the purpose and intent of the sign standards is to provide for reasonable display of all signage in the Deep Creek Lake Watershed Area to identify and advertise products, services, institutions, events, and business establishments for the information and convenience of the general public. These standards and criteria are designed to protect and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of persons within the community. The standards are also designed to aid in the orderly development and promotion of business by providing regulations, which encourage aesthetics and effectiveness in the display and use of signs while protecting and enhancing community character and property values.

Deep Creek Lake Watershed Area recognizes that signs perform an important function by identifying residences and businesses and has adopted sign regulations, for both permanent and temporary types of signage, within each zone district. The purpose of these regulations is:

- A. To encourage signs that help to visually organize the activities of the communities, lend order and meaning to business identification, and make it easier for the public and delivery services to identify and locate their destinations;
- B. To encourage a positive business atmosphere;
- C. To implement the resort design goals and policies of the body;
- D. To improve the visual quality of thoroughfares and eliminate visual clutter by controlling the types and use of temporary signs;
- E. To minimize unnecessary distractions to motorists, protect pedestrians, and provide safe working conditions for those persons who are required to install, maintain, repair, or remove signs;
- F. To eliminate the visual degradation imposed by billboards due to excessive height and copy areas through the continued prohibition of such new signs;
- G. To assure that all signs, in terms of size, scale, height, and location, are compatible with adjacent land uses and with the size of development that they serve.
- H. This Section shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech. [If any provision of this Section is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding shall not affect the validity of other provisions of this Section which can be given effect without the invalid provision.]

Severability

Examples of Sign Purpose Statements

I. Deep Creek Lake Current Code

§ 157.105 PURPOSES. This subchapter recognizes that signs perform an important function by identifying residences and businesses. However, some control of signs is necessary to promote the community's safety and general welfare by:

- (1) Lessening safety hazards to pedestrian and vehicular traffic;
- (2) Conserving property values;
- (3) Preventing unsightly and detrimental development which has a blighting influence upon residential and business uses;
- (4) Preventing signs from reaching such excessive size that they obscure one another to the detriment of all concerned; and
- (5) Securing certain fundamentals of design to protect the scenic qualities which form an essential basis for part of the county's economic well being.

§ 157.106 APPLICABILITY AND EXEMPTIONS.

A. No sign shall be erected, hung, placed or painted in any Zoning District except as provided in this chapter.

B. For the purpose of this chapter, any of the following words relating to signs are intended to include any tense or to read with the prefix "re-": affix, alter, attach, display, erect, hang, move, paint, paper, paste, place, post or repair.

C. No sign erected before the enactment of these regulations shall be altered in any respect or moved, except in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, and except that any sign may be removed completely. (Not enforced)

D. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent the proper erection and maintenance of official signs by federal, state, county or municipal agencies for traffic control, directional or informational purposes, or by a private person or agency solely for the protection of the public health, safety and welfare.

E. Where the flag, emblem, name or insignia of a nation, governmental unit, nonprofit educational, charitable or religious group is used as a sign within the meaning of this chapter, such use shall comply with the provisions hereof, except that no fee shall be charged for issuing a permit for such use.