



Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP)

Washington State Conservation Commission



The History of OFP



- Office of Farmland Preservation proposal began in Skagit County
- Unanimously by WACD
- Senator Haugen Sponsors SSB 5108
- Governor signed it on May 8, 2007





OFP Powers and Duties

The Office of Farmland Preservation is created and shall be located within the Washington State Conservation Commission. Staff support for the Office shall be provided by the Washington State Conservation Commission.

The Office of Farmland Preservation may:

- § Provide advice and assist WSCC in implementing the provisions of RCW 89.08.530 and 89.08.540.
- § Develop recommendations for the funding level of the agricultural conservation easements account established in RCW 89.08.540 with the guidance of the Farmland Preservation Task Force.
- § With input from the Task Force, provide an analysis of the major factors that have led to past declines in the amount and use of agricultural lands in Washington and of the factors that will likely affect retention and viability of these lands into the future including, but not limited to, pressures to convert land to nonagricultural uses, loss of processing plants and markets, loss of competitive advantage, urban sprawl, and conversion to recreational or other uses.





OPF Powers and Duties

The Office of Farmland Preservation may:

- § Develop model programs and tools to retain agricultural land for agricultural production with the guidance from the Farmland Preservation Task Force.
- § Provide technical assistance to localities as they develop and implement programs, mechanisms, and tools to encourage the retention of agricultural lands.
- § Develop a grant process and an eligibility certification process for localities to receive grants for local programs and tools to retain agricultural lands for agricultural production.
- § Provide analysis and recommendations as to the continued development and implementation of the farm transition program including, but not limited to, recommending assistance in: preparation of business plans for the transition of business interests; facilitation of transfers of existing properties and agricultural operations to interested buyers; research assistance on agricultural financial marketing and other related transition matters.





OFP Powers and Duties

The Office of Farmland Preservation may:

- § Begin the development of a farm transition program to assist in the transition of farmland and related businesses from one generation to the next, aligning the farm transition program closely with the farmland preservation effort to assure complementary functions; and
- § Serve as a clearinghouse for incentive programs that would consolidate and disseminate information relating to conservation programs that are accessible to landowners and assist owners of agricultural lands to secure financial assistance to implement conservation easements and other projects.





Task Force Members

Task Force Members:

- § Six farmer representatives appointed by the Governor.
- § WSCC Representative of WSCC – ***Commissioner Lynn Bahrych***
- § Department of Agriculture Representative – ***Lee Faulconer***
- § WSAC Eastern Washington Representative -
- § WSAC Western Washington Representative -
- § Senate Member, Republicanation – ***Sen. Jim Honeyford***
- § Senate Member, Democrat – ***Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen***
- § House of Representatives, Republicanation – ***Rep. Steve Hailey***
- § House of Representatives, Democrat – ***Rep. Larry Springer***
- § Office of the Governor Representative - ***John Mankowski***
- § WACD Representative of Conservation Districts - ***Fred Colvin***

Non Voting Task Force Members:

- § NRCS – ***Gus Hughbanks***
- § CTED – ***Dee Caputo***



As of September 13



Related WA Programs

- Conservation Commission
 - Office of Farmland Preservation 250K/fy/GFS
 - Agricultural Conservation Easements
- Department of Agriculture
 - Future of Farming Evaluation in WSDA
- Recreation and Conservation Office
 - Farmland Preservation Account
- Community, Trade and Economic Development
 - Transfer of Development Rights Program-forest land
 - High Risk Farms & Forests Program
 - Regional TDR Program - rural, agricultural, and forested land
- Department of Natural Resources
 - “Acquire Forest Lands Threatened With Conversion.”
- University of Washington
 - Future of Washington Forests, additional research and tech. assistance
- Housing Finance Commission
 - Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program



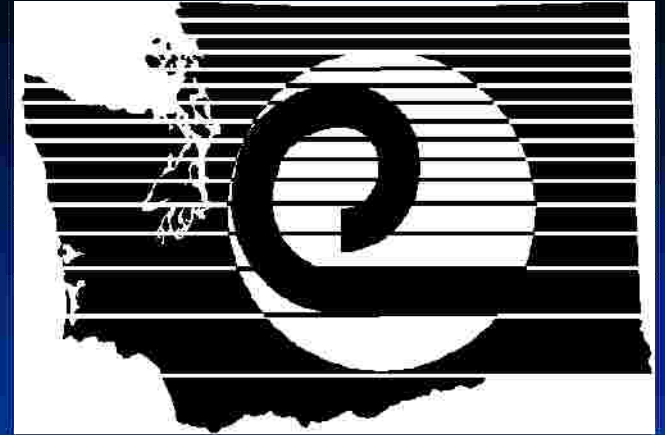
The background of the slide is a photograph of a field with tall grasses or crops, overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow filter. A black border is visible on the right side of the slide.

Questions....?





Thanks!



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