

Agricultural protection (Protecting the agricultural industry) (Version 3)

<p><u>Goal statement (a):</u> <i>Important agricultural land in the WID is protected from conversion through appropriate zoning and/or voluntary agricultural conservation easements.</i></p> <p><u>Progress could be measured by:</u> <i>Acres of land in the Sumas WID protected by voluntary agricultural conservation easements</i></p>	<p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>Consider possible outreach actions with Whatcom County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program</i>
<p><u>Goal statement (b)</u> <i>Land use conflicts with neighboring non-agricultural landowners are reduced.</i></p> <p><u>Progress could be measured by:</u> <i>Number of complaints received from non-agricultural landowners by the WID or by Whatcom County.</i></p>	<p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>engage and communicate with non-ag landowners in the WID area about WID priorities and programs, normal farming operations, right-to-farm etc. (include specific actions in the communication strategy)*</i> <p><i>* denotes actions that may need additional resources, and more detailed scope & description (see section Error! Reference source not found.)</i></p>
<p><u>Goal statement(c):</u> <i>Suggestions from WID board for goal statements that might apply here to indicate recognition, protection & strength of agriculture?</i></p> <p><u>Progress could be measured by:</u> <i>Suggestions from WID board for indicators related to ag production? An example of a measurable achievement might be the County Council resolution on preserving the ag land base, which recognizes the value of agriculture and associated industries for the local economy.</i></p>	<p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <i>coordinate with Whatcom Family Farmers to address legal challenges and preserve “one voice outreach” on behalf of agriculture (from March 20 work session)</i>

¹ Note that WID actions could contribute to this priority issue, but there are also external factors influencing it, such as land prices, agricultural markets & policies etc.