

Clallam County Farmland Preservation

WSCC GRANT NO. 08-CLALLAMOF-01

Final Report

PROJECT DESCRIPTION. Clallam County received \$25,000 from the Washington State Conservation Commission to strengthen and improve its farmland preservation program by conducting a survey to assess community support, develop a strategy for improving the effectiveness of its current incentive programs, and develop a GIS layer that will assist in prioritizing farmland to be preserved.

FINAL REPORT. The RECIPIENT shall submit a final report within thirty (30) days following the expiration date of this agreement. The final report shall describe: the results of each outcome and deliverable identified in the scope of work; the extent to which the work accomplished with this grant achieved or advanced the objectives of the Recipient's program; and, if applicable, the details of further action needed to fully develop a successful program for the Recipient.

SCOPE OF WORK

Intermediate Outcome 1: A feasibility report and survey will be completed and be used by a coalition of local groups to evaluate potential funding sources for land conservation and farmland preservation within Clallam County, and to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners as to whether the public will support various options.

Deliverable: A feasibility report and survey will be completed and recommendations based on these documents will be presented to the Clallam County Commissioners.

Result: Intermediate Outcome 1 and its deliverable were completed. This grant reimbursed the county for its direct share (\$4,500) as well as its staff time for providing necessary technical expertise (\$500) toward the cost of the Trust for Public Land's services (\$20,000) in preparing a feasibility report and conducting a survey to be used by a Coalition consisting of the North Olympic Land Trust, Friends of the Fields, the Port Angeles Realtors' Association, the Sequim Realtor's Association, and the Trust for Public Land, to evaluate potential funding sources for land conservation and farmland preservation within Clallam County, and to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners as to whether the public will support a particular finance option, at what level, and on what timeframe. Trust for Public Lands completed the feasibility report, survey, and recommendations, which was submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in April of 2008.

Intermediate Outcome 2: The Recipient will conduct the following:

1. Consultation with jurisdictions around the state regarding other successful and innovative Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) programs will be conducted for the purpose of developing strategies for updating the County's TDR program.
2. The County's current clustering development regulations will be reviewed to determine their effectiveness for preserving farmland.
3. A review of County ordinances and development regulations relating to preservation of farmland will be conducted and strategies for optimizing their effectiveness will be developed.
4. A brochure and webpage will be prepared and targeted to the general public informing them of programs and incentives available for the preservation of local farmland.

Deliverable: The following information will be compiled and provided to the County Commissioners and the public for their review and action:

1. A description of innovative TDR programs from around the state.
2. A report on the effectiveness of the County's current clustering development regulations.
3. A review and report on strategies for optimizing the effectiveness of ordinances relating to farmland preservation.
4. A brochure and webpage will be completed.

Result: Intermediate Outcome 2 and its deliverable were completed.

1. Clallam County Department of Community Development (DCD) submitted to the Board of County Commissioners a report that summarized TDR programs from around the state, provided an analysis of key elements to a successful TDR program, and proposed strategies for Clallam County to consider in updating its TDR program.
2. DCD submitted to the Board of County Commissioners a report that reviewed and analyzed the effectiveness of the County's current Agricultural Resource Zone clustering development provisions, and that proposed strategies for Clallam County to consider for improving the effectiveness of such cluster provisions.
3. DCD submitted to the Board of County Commissioners a report that reviewed and analyzed current county ordinances relating to farmland preservation, and that proposed strategies for Clallam County to consider for improving the effectiveness of such ordinances.
4. DCD prepared a brochure targeted to the general public that outlines programs and incentives available for the preservation of local farmland. This brochure is being printed and will be available on the County's website.

Intermediate Outcome 3: A GIS layer of the county will be developed that will identify locations of farmland, farming activities, and land already preserved through purchase of development rights or conservations easements. Factors used in prioritizing lands to be targeted for preservation will be developed for consideration by the County Commission and the public.

Deliverable: A GIS layer will be developed. Factors for prioritization will be incorporated into the strategies report submitted to the County Commissioners.

Result: Intermediate Outcome 3 and its deliverable were completed. DCD developed a GIS layer that identifies locations of farmland, farming activities, and land already preserved through the purchase of development rights or conservation easements. Maps showing these locations were produced and submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. Factors used in prioritizing lands to be targeted for preservation were developed and were incorporated into the strategies report submitted to the County Commissioners.

Further Action: The work accomplished with this grant advanced the objectives of the Recipient's program by conducting a survey to assess community support, developing a strategy for improving the effectiveness of the County's current incentive programs, and developing a GIS layer that will assist in prioritizing farmland to be preserved. The grant's project scope was thus completed. Further action, beyond the scope of the grant's scope of work, would be needed to implement these strategies, to wit, relevant amendments to the County's Code.