

Farmland Preservation Projects

Grants Awarded

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2017-2019

Rank	Score	Project Number		Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Grant Applicant		Grant Awarded
		and Type ¹	Project Name			Match	Total	
1	54.56	16-1660A	Penn Cove Farmland	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	\$755,370	\$923,230	\$1,678,600	\$755,370
2	52.89	16-1908A	Smith Family Farms Phase 1	North Olympic Land Trust	\$523,800	\$683,200	\$1,207,000	\$523,800
3	51.56	16-1765A	Trout Lake Valley Phase 3	Columbia Land Trust	\$844,987	\$844,988	\$1,689,975	\$844,987
4	48.78	16-1360A	Bailey Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$569,511	\$582,000	\$1,151,511	\$569,511
5	48.11	16-1924A	Schuster Hereford Ranch	Conservation Commission	\$881,000		\$881,000	\$881,000
6	47.89	16-1319A	Mountain View Dairy	PCC Farmland Trust	\$778,861	\$778,862	\$1,557,723	Not Funded ³
7	47.78	16-1358A	Reiner Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$814,010	\$814,010	\$1,628,020	\$814,010
8	46.44	16-1637A	Serendipity Farm	Jefferson Land Trust	\$106,600	\$106,600	\$213,200	\$106,600
9	46.33	16-1923A	Lazy Cross Ranch	Conservation Commission	\$1,803,656		\$1,803,656	\$1,803,656
10	45.33	16-1942A	Anderson Creek Area Acquisitions	Whatcom County	\$377,120	\$447,120	\$824,240	\$377,120
11	44.67	16-1939A	Cougar Creek Ranch Acquisition	Whatcom County	\$316,000	\$355,500	\$671,500	\$227,306 ²
12	44.56	16-1922A	Blain Ranches	Conservation Commission	\$776,825		\$776,825	Alternate
12	44.56	16-2009A	Seachris Farm Easement	Blue Mountain Land Trust	\$169,500	\$169,500	\$339,000	Alternate
14	44.33	16-1634A	Rader Road Ranch	Forterra	\$937,500	\$937,500	\$1,875,000	Alternate
15	44.22	16-1938A	Brar Acquisition	Whatcom County	\$157,200	\$181,700	\$338,900	Alternate
16	44.00	16-1989A	Pierson Farm	Skagit County	\$713,375	\$713,375	\$1,426,750	Alternate
16	44.00	16-1866A	Anders Orchard Methow Valley	Methow Conservancy	\$108,750	\$108,750	\$217,500	Alternate
18	43.89	16-1941A	Jacoby Acquisition	Whatcom County	\$201,000	\$229,000	\$430,000	Alternate
19	42.89	16-1937A	Williams Acquisitions	Whatcom County	\$211,000	\$265,500	\$476,500	Alternate
20	42.22	16-1943A	Squalicum Ranch Acquisition	Whatcom County	\$173,500	\$199,800	\$373,300	Alternate
21	38.33	16-1990A	Nelson-Ploeg Farm	Skagit County	\$80,750	\$80,750	\$161,500	Alternate
22	37.89	16-1987A	Sakuma Brothers Farm	Skagit County	\$263,250	\$263,250	\$526,500	Alternate
23	37.33	16-1963A	Hayton Farm	Skagit County	\$263,250	\$263,250	\$526,500	Alternate
24	36.11	16-1944A	Matheson Acquisition	Whatcom County	\$113,500	\$132,700	\$246,200	Alternate
					\$11,940,315	\$9,080,585	\$21,020,900	\$6,903,360

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2017-18

¹Project Types: A=Acquisition

²P=Partial funding

³No legislative authority for funding.

Farmland Preservation Projects
Preliminary Ranking
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2017-2019

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24	36.11	16-1944A	Matheson Acquisition	Whatcom County	\$113,500	\$132,700	\$246,200
					\$11,940,315	\$9,080,585	\$21,020,900

*Project Type: A=Acquisition

Farmland Preservation Projects

Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2017-2019

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6 7		8	9	10	Total
							Farmland Stewardship	Stewardship Practices in Easement				
Project Name	Viability of the Site	Threat to the Land	Access to Markets	On Site Infrastructure	Building Envelope	Stewardship Practices	Stewardship Practices in Easement	Benefits to Community	Match	Easement Duration		
1	Penn Cove Farmland	15.78	10.00	4.00	4.00	3.33	5.67	1.89	7.89	2.00	0.00	54.56
2	Smith Family Farms Phase 1	15.56	8.78	3.78	3.67	4.00	5.67	2.00	7.44	2.00	0.00	52.89
3	Trout Lake Valley Phase 3	15.67	9.00	3.89	4.00	4.00	5.78	1.89	7.33	0.00	0.00	51.56
4	Bailey Farm	15.00	8.11	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.67	1.56	7.44	0.00	0.00	48.78
5	Schuster Hereford Ranch	14.78	7.33	3.89	3.67	3.89	5.56	1.78	7.22	0.00	0.00	48.11
6	Mountain View Dairy	14.56	10.00	3.89	3.78	4.00	3.67	1.44	6.56	0.00	0.00	47.89
7	Reiner Farm	13.78	8.44	4.00	3.78	3.78	5.67	1.56	6.78	0.00	0.00	47.78
8	Serendipity Farm	14.33	7.67	4.00	4.00	2.89	5.44	1.78	6.33	0.00	0.00	46.44
9	Lazy Cross Ranch	14.11	6.89	3.78	3.78	3.78	5.11	1.89	7.00	0.00	0.00	46.33
10	Anderson Creek Area	13.89	8.11	3.89	3.67	3.44	5.00	1.67	5.67	0.00	0.00	45.33
11	Cougar Creek Ranch	14.22	7.11	3.89	3.56	3.67	4.78	1.67	5.78	0.00	0.00	44.67
12	Blain Ranches	13.89	6.56	3.78	3.67	3.44	4.44	1.89	6.89	0.00	0.00	44.56
12	Seachris Farm Easement	14.56	8.78	4.00	2.89	3.22	4.33	1.44	5.33	0.00	0.00	44.56
14	Rader Road Ranch	14.67	8.22	3.56	3.89	3.89	2.44	1.22	6.44	0.00	0.00	44.33
15	Brar Acquisition	15.22	8.78	4.00	3.44	3.56	3.22	0.67	5.33	0.00	0.00	44.22
16	Pierson Farm	14.78	8.00	4.00	3.67	3.89	4.11	0.00	5.56	0.00	0.00	44.00
16	Anders Orchard	13.56	9.22	4.00	2.00	3.56	3.56	1.89	6.22	0.00	0.00	44.00
18	Jacoby Acquisition	13.67	6.56	3.89	3.67	3.56	5.00	1.44	6.11	0.00	0.00	43.89
19	Williams Acquisitions	12.22	7.44	4.00	2.67	3.56	3.67	1.22	6.11	2.00	0.00	42.89
20	Squalicum Ranch Acquisition	12.56	9.44	3.89	3.89	3.78	2.89	0.67	5.11	0.00	0.00	42.22
21	Nelson-Ploeg Farm	13.33	7.33	4.00	2.22	2.78	3.22	0.00	5.44	0.00	0.00	38.33
22	Sakuma Brothers Farm	14.33	6.56	4.00	2.44	2.78	2.78	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	37.89
23	Hayton Farm	12.78	6.44	4.00	1.78	2.89	3.89	0.00	5.56	0.00	0.00	37.33
24	Matheson Acquisition	10.56	8.11	4.00	1.67	2.89	2.89	0.89	5.11	0.00	0.00	36.11

Evaluators score Questions 1-8; RCO staff scores Questions 9-10.

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Whidbey Camano Land Trust **Preserving Penn Cove Farmland**

Grant Requested: \$755,370

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 202 acres of historic, working farmland 3 miles south of Oak Harbor in Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. The land trust will buy voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, which will prevent development of two farms forever. The 129-acre Penn Cove Farm primarily is used for cropland to support an on-site dairy and heifer-raising operation. The farm has a full suite of infrastructure, including barns and farm buildings, irrigation system, manure digester, and fully-implemented farm resource management plan. The second farm is 73 acres, used primarily for hay and beef cattle production, and contains farm structures. Farmland protection, especially in Ebey's reserve, is a high priority for Island County residents and is a primary goal in the county's comprehensive plan. The need to protect these two farms is becoming more critical as the population around Oak Harbor expands to serve a growing Navy population. Conserving the farms also protects prime farmland soils, critical aquifer recharge areas, scenic open space, and wildlife habitat in the reserve. Both farms are identified as high protection priorities for the land trust, National Park Service, and Ebey's Trust board. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute \$923,230 in federal and local grants. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1660)

North Olympic Land Trust **Conserving Smith Family Farms in Clallam County**

Grant Requested: \$523,800

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 132 acres of Smith Family Farms, one of Clallam County's two remaining dairy farms. The land trust will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent development of the land and ensure the farm remains available for agricultural production. The land has been farmed by the family since 1933, and the third, fourth, and fifth generations are active on the farm today. This farm contains all prime and prime, if irrigated, farmland soils, and is planted with spinach and cauliflower seed crop, barley, corn, and fruit tree-fescue grass mix. The farm and other land that the Smith family leases and owns in the area, provide all the feed for their cattle and are an integral part of their dairy operation. The farm is in eastern Clallam County, which is primarily large tracts of farmland, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. This farm is a popular birding spot and is popular with the Dungeness herd of elk. This project is the first of phase of a conservation vision to conserve all of the land that the family farms, including its 115-acre dairy. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$683,200 in a federal grant and cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1908)

Columbia Land Trust **Conserving a Farm in Trout Lake Valley**

Grant Requested: \$844,987

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 280 acres of farmland in the shadow of Mount Adams and in

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Trout Lake Valley in Klickitat County. The agreement will prevent development and keep the land available for agriculture forever. The Trout Lake Valley is renowned for its extraordinary beauty, productive farms and forests, and abundant wildlife and recreation. The valley is ideal for agriculture because of its abundance of water, prime agricultural soils, climate, isolation from pollution, and its rich history of farming since the 1880s. Large-scale agriculture is threatened in the valley because of its exceptional beauty. When residential development mixes with farming, farms often lose because people complain about the dust, noise, odors, traffic, trespass, and water conflicts. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute \$844,988 in a donation of property interest. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1765)

PCC Farmland Trust Conserving Bailey Farm

Grant Requested: \$569,511

PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to conserve 270 acres of Snohomish County's best farmland. Bailey Farm is in the southeast corner of the Marshland Flood Control District in the highly productive Snohomish River valley. It is zoned for agriculture with 8 percent of the land in the Snohomish River floodway. Conservation of Bailey Farm will help preserve the ecological integrity of the county's prime farmland, as well as critical upland and wetland. Bailey Farm is a fifth-generation family farm and was designated a Centennial Farm by Snohomish County. Bailey Farm provides opportunities for surrounding communities to experience a farm firsthand through school field trips, a large u-pick vegetable operation, and farm stand. In recognition of this farm's importance in the community, this project is supported by Snohomish County. PCC Farmland Trust contributed \$582,000 in Conservation Futures.¹ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1360)

Washington State Conservation Commission Conserving the Schuster Hereford Ranch

Grant Requested: \$881,000

The Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for the 1,909-acre Schuster Hereford Ranch in Klickitat County. The ranch is contiguous with an 11,920-acre farm already protected. The landowner wants to keep his rangeland pasture and dryland operation intact and undeveloped. The easement will prevent development and keep the land available for farming forever. Conserving the land also will protect key habitat and wildlife at risk of extinction in the Rock Creek watershed including middle Columbia River Chinook Salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, the land will enhance the adjacent Badger Gulch Natural Area Preserve by preventing development on sensitive lands. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1924)

¹Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



PCC Farmland Trust

Grant Requested: \$778,861

Conserving the Mountain View Dairy

PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for the Mountain View Dairy, a historic family dairy farm in Graham. At 284 total acres, it is eight times the average farm size in Pierce County, and one of the largest farms in the area. The agreement will prevent the farm from being developed, ensuring the land will be available for farming forever. The farm is owned by a developer who has had the property preliminarily platted and listed for sale. If not conserved, the farm could be developed into more than 29 homes and lost forever as a productive farm. The owner is leasing the land to a local farming family that operates a certified organic dairy in King County and is using the property to expand and diversify its operation. The family plans to buy the land and raise feed, beef, and chickens. In recognition of this farm's importance in the community and the urgency of the threat of development, the PCC Farmland Trust is working to buy the easement and ensure that ownership of the farm can be transferred affordably to the current farmers. This project is supported by Pierce County and the Pierce Conservation District. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$778,862 in donations of cash and Conservation Futures.² For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1319)

PCC Farmland Trust

Grant Requested: \$814,010

Conserving the Reiner Farm in the Tualco Valley

PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to conserve 200 acres of Reiner Farm in the Tualco Valley, one of Snohomish County's core agricultural communities. Five times the average county farm size, Reiner Farm also has some of Snohomish County's best farmland, 2 miles of riverfront along the Skykomish River, and a 200-foot buffer along the river, providing high quality wildlife habitat. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. Currently, Reiner Farm provides critical land for the neighboring Werkhoven Dairy, which milks 1,000 cows on 700 acres of owned and leased land, including Reiner farm. Reiner Farm produces corn, silage, and hay, and its rich U.S. Department of Agriculture prime soils are capable of supporting diversified row crops, berries and fruit, livestock, and grain production. The landowner, Dale Reiner, along with the Werkhovens, are part of the Sno/Sky Ag Alliance. Ten years ago, these producers began working collaboratively with their neighbors—Northwest Chinook Recovery and the Tulalip Tribes—to achieve a common goal of environmental preservation and sustainable agriculture. In addition to pursuing grants to secure the farmland, PCC Farmland Trust is working with partners to acquire additional funding to conserve the shoreline and wildlife habitat areas of the property. PCC Farmland Trust will

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Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



contribute \$814,010 in donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1358)

Jefferson Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$106,600

Conserving a Farm in the Heart of Quilcene

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to conserve nearly 45 acres of farmland in the heart of Quilcene. The land trust will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on Serendipity Farm, which will prevent development of this historic farm, preserve the prime soils and habitat forever, and provide funding for the farmers to grow their business. Conservation of this important local farm will result in more than 70 contiguous acres of prime farmland conserved in the heart of Quilcene. Serendipity Farm includes about 30 acres of prime pastureland, more than 5 acres of restored stream shoreline habitat enrolled in a federal conservation program, and 8 acres of vegetables, berries, fruit trees, and flowers. Salmon species, including Coho Salmon and Cutthroat Trout, use the restored stream and drainage ditches on the farm. The highly visible, scenic vistas define the rural character of this area and protection of this strategically located farm will enhance the viability of the agricultural community. The project builds on the land trust's agricultural land preservation program, which has conserved nearly 600 acres in Chimacum and 144 acres in nearby Quilcene. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$106,600 in a local grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1637)

Washington State Conservation Commission

Grant Requested: \$1,803,656

Conserving Lazy Cross Ranch

The Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for the 4,351-acre Lazy Cross Ranch in Klickitat County. The landowner wants to keep his rangeland pasture operation intact and undeveloped. The easement will prevent development and keep the land available for farming forever. Protecting this land also will protect water quality and habitat availability. The ranch includes a portion of the Rock Creek watershed, which is used by middle Columbia River Chinook Salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. It also includes the upper reaches of Squaw Creek, which contains important habitat for steelhead. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1923)

Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$347,120

Conserving Anderson Creek Area Farms

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve nearly 160 acres of three adjacent farms along Anderson Creek in the central part of the county. The County will buy voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, which will prevent the land from being developed and ensure it will be available for farming forever. The land is used for a variety of crops and livestock, including a u-pick vegetable operation to silage to replacement heifer

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



operations that support a local dairy. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning, which means the remaining acres must come from land zoned for rural development, such as the Anderson Creek area farms. The primary benefit of this project is to ensure the permanent preservation and maintenance of a large block of rural land as agricultural land and open space. Whatcom County will contribute \$447,120 in Conservation Futures³ and a federal grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1942)

Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$316,000

Conserving Cougar Creek Ranch

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve the nearly 158-acre Cougar Creek Ranch, which is between Bellingham and Lynden, in the central part of the county. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the ranch from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. The land is used for pigs, poultry, sheep, corn silage, seed potatoes, and raspberries. The farm is an original homestead that has been in the farmer's (Karl Prisk) family for generations. Preserving this farm would prevent fragmentation in the agricultural zone and keep the original homestead intact. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning, which means the remaining acres must come from land zoned for rural development, such as the Cougar Creek Ranch Farm. The primary benefit of the project is to ensure the permanent preservation and maintenance of a large block of rural land as agricultural land and open space. Whatcom County will contribute \$355,500 in Conservation Futures⁴ and a federal grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1939)

Washington State Conservation Commission

Grant Requested: \$776,825

Conserving Blain Ranch

The Conservation Commission will use this grant to conserve the 1,924-acre Blain Ranch in Klickitat County. The commission will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent development and keep the land available for farming forever. The cattle ranch is contiguous with 11,920 acres of farmland already protected. This project comes with the support of a motivated landowner who intends to keep his rangeland operation intact and undeveloped. Protecting this property also will protect key habitat for species at risk of extinction in the Rock Creek watershed including middle Columbia River Chinook Salmon and steelhead, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the

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Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



federal Endangered Species Act, and western gray squirrel. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1922)

Blue Mountain Land Trust Conserving a Walla Walla Farm

Grant Requested: \$169,500

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to conserve a 238-acre farm in Walla Walla County. The land trust will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever while reserving future home sites on non-farmable land. Located along the Touchet River, the farm has nearly 200 acres of prime agricultural soils and ample water rights for irrigation. In 2016, about 40 acres will be planted with alfalfa, with the remainder of the farm used as irrigated pasture. The agreement will protect about 21 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) as a shoreline buffer. Located immediately outside the town of Touchet and about 2 miles from U.S. Highway 12, the farm is an attractive target for development. Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$169,500 in a federal grant and donations of cash. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-2009)

Forterra Preserving Rader Road Ranch

Grant Requested: \$937,500

Forterra will use this grant to protect 280 acres of working farmland just north of Ellensburg in Kittitas County. Forterra will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on Rader Road Ranch, which will preserve the ranch and prevent development forever. The cattle ranch is owned by a legendary rodeo family. With significant water rights, the largest private ownership on nearly 1 mile of Naneum Creek, spectacular views of the Kittitas Valley, fantastic soils, and easy access to markets, Rader Road Ranch is an excellent candidate for permanent protection. Rader Road Ranch will add to the county's protected farmland acreage and continue the legacy of support for working and resource lands in the region. Forterra will contribute \$937,500 in donation of property interest and a federal grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1634)

Whatcom County Conserving the Brar Brothers' Raspberry Farm

Grant Requested: \$157,200

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve the 78-acre Brar Brothers Farm, which produces raspberries, in the central part of the county. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning, which means the remaining acres must come from land zoned for rural development, such as the Brar Farm. The primary benefit of the project is to ensure the permanent

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



preservation and maintenance of a large block of rural land as agricultural land and open space. Whatcom County will contribute \$181,700 in Conservation Futures.⁵ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1938)

Skagit County

Grant Requested: \$713,375

Conserving the Pierson Farm on the Samish Flats

Skagit County will use this grant to conserve 320 acres of farmland, known as the Pierson Farm, on the Samish Flats in Skagit County. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. The overall goal is to keep the farm in agricultural productivity and to protect prime and important agricultural soils. Skagit County will contribute \$713,375 in Conservation Futures.⁶ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1989)

Methow Conservancy

Grant Requested: \$108,750

Conserving the Anders Apple Orchard

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for the 35-acre Anders Orchard, which is about 7 miles north of Pateros in Okanogan County. The agreement will prevent development of the orchard and ensure it will remain available for farming forever. The Anders family has owned the land since 1974 and has run the apple orchard for more than 30 years, employing about 26 people. The family grew scarlet, red delicious, and golden delicious apples and earned the top three of pack every year at Custom Apple Packing. When Lynne Anders retired, she leased the orchard to a neighboring orchardist. This arrangement was cut short by the devastating Carlton Complex Fires, which destroyed many trees, all of the fencing, the machine shop, a shed, eight picker cabins, the kitchen, and bathhouse. Lynne Anders intends to replant the orchard with high value fruit varieties, using modern planting techniques, resulting in a significant increase of economic output from the orchard, as evidenced by similar orchards in the area. The Methow Conservancy will contribute \$108,750 in a federal grant and donations of cash and labor. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1866)

Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$201,000

Conserving the Jacoby Farm

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve the 100-acre Jacoby Farm in the South Fork Nooksack River valley to the east of Bellingham. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from

⁵Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. The Jacoby family has lived in the south fork valley for generations and farms the land for grass-based livestock. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning. The land preservation agreement for the Jacoby Farm will help the County meet its goal. The primary benefit of the project is to ensure the permanent preservation and maintenance of a large block of land as agricultural land and open space. Whatcom County will contribute \$229,000 in Conservation Futures.⁷ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1941)

Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$211,000

Conserving Vegetable Farmland in Whatcom County

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve 100 acres of the Williams' farms in the central part of the county. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the land from being developed and ensure it will be available for farming forever. The County is buying an agreement for three properties, which are actively farmed and predominately diversified organic vegetable farms that support several farmers who sell their produce at farmers' markets. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning, which means the remaining acres must come from land zoned for rural development, such as the Williams' farms. The primary benefit of the project is to ensure the permanent preservation and maintenance of a large block of agricultural land. Whatcom County will contribute \$265,500 in Conservation Futures⁸ and federal and local grants. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1937)

Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$173,500

Conserving the Squalicum Ranch

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve more than 172 acres of the Squalicum Ranch in the central part of the county. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the land from being developed and ensure it will be available for farming forever. The agreement also preserves the area for wildlife habitat and as a historic view corridor for drivers traveling along the Mount Baker Highway. The ranch is used predominately by grass-fed livestock and is one of the last remaining large blocks of agriculture in its vicinity along the Mount Baker Highway. The purchase will help Whatcom County achieve its agriculture protection goals. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning, which means the remaining acres must come from land zoned for rural development, such as the Squalicum

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Ranch. Whatcom County will contribute \$199,800 in Conservation Futures.⁹ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1943)

Skagit County

Grant Requested: \$80,750

Conserving the Nelson-Ploeg Farm on the Samish Flats

Skagit County will use this grant to conserve 78 acres of farmland, known as the Nelson-Ploeg Farm, on the Samish Flats in Skagit County. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. The overall goal is to keep the farm in agricultural productivity and to protect prime and important agricultural soils. Skagit County will contribute \$80,750 in Conservation Futures.¹⁰ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1990)

Skagit County

Grant Requested: \$263,250

Conserving Sakuma Brothers Farm on the Samish Flats

Skagit County will use this grant to conserve 160 acres of farmland, known as the Sakuma Brothers Farm, on the Samish Flats in Skagit County. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. The overall goal is to keep the farm in agricultural productivity and to protect prime and important agricultural soils. Skagit County will contribute \$263,250 in Conservation Futures.¹¹ For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1987)

Skagit County

Grant Requested: \$263,250

Conserving Hayton Farm on Fir Island

Skagit County will use this grant to conserve 160 acres of farmland, known as Hayton Farm, on Fir Island. The County will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, which will prevent the farm from being developed and ensure the land will be available for farming forever. The overall goal is to keep the farm in agricultural productivity and to protect prime and important agricultural soils. Skagit County will contribute \$263,250 in Conservation Futures.¹² For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1963)

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Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$113,500

Conserving the Matheson Cattle and Yak Farm

Whatcom County will use this grant to conserve more than 17.9 acres of the Matheson Farm in the central part of the county. Matheson Farm raises cattle and yaks for meat and sells most of her products locally. Her farm is near a very busy intersection with the Guide Meridian in Whatcom County along a development corridor. Protecting her farm would ensure that development didn't sprawl to the west. In 2001, the County set a goal to protect 100,000 acres of agricultural land, but has only 88,000 acres in agricultural zoning, which means the remaining acres must come from land zoned for rural development, such as the Matheson Farm. The primary benefit of the project is to ensure the permanent preservation and maintenance of a large block of rural land as agricultural land and open space. Whatcom County will contribute \$132,700 in Conservation Futures¹³ and a federal grant. For more information and photographs of this project, visit [RCO's online Project Snapshot](#). (16-1944)

¹³Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.