

Grants Awarded

Farmland Preservation Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	52.38	22-1662 A	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Bell's Farm Expansion	\$1,069,250	\$1,332,200	\$2,401,450	\$1,069,250
2	51	22-1435 A	Palouse Land Trust	Zakarison Farmland Protection	\$249,278	\$331,903	\$581,181	\$249,278
3	50.62	22-1322 A	Whatcom County	Jacoby Agricultural Conservation Easement	\$169,650	\$207,350	\$377,000	\$169,650
4	50.38	22-1408 A	Jefferson Land Trust	Quilcene Farmland Preservation	\$750,000	\$979,200	\$1,729,200	\$750,000
4	50.38	22-1681 A	Columbia Land Trust	Little Klickitat River Century Farm	\$1,605,000	\$1,605,000	\$3,210,000	\$1,605,000
6	49.12	22-1643 A	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Welcome Table Farm Conservation Easement	\$345,500	\$357,500	\$703,000	\$345,500
7	48.5	22-1524 A	North Olympic Land Trust	Mid Valley Farm	\$421,180	\$514,779	\$935,959	\$421,180
8	47.88	22-1230 A	Methow Conservancy	Wolf Creek Agricultural Conservation Easement Phase 2	\$1,279,250	\$1,279,250	\$2,558,500	Not Funded ²
9	47.75	22-1533 A	North Olympic Land Trust	The Dungeness Hub Nash's Organic Produce	\$137,631	\$168,218	\$305,849	\$137,631
10	47.38	22-1541 A	Conservation Commission	Davenport Cattle Agricultural Easement	\$3,492,195		\$3,492,195	\$3,492,195
11	46.62	22-1545 A	State Conservation Commission	Emerick Rangeland Preservation	\$1,460,550		\$1,460,550	\$1,460,550
12	46.5	22-1544 A	State Conservation Commission	Swauk Prairie Farms	\$6,373,917		\$6,373,917	\$659,126 ³
13	45.5	22-1649 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Spencer Farm	\$271,750	\$271,750	\$543,500	Alternate
14	44.25	22-1617 A	Okanogan Land Trust	Similkameen-Wahl Ranch	\$648,375	\$648,375	\$1,296,750	Alternate
15	42.88	22-1722 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Parlette Orchard	\$528,175	\$528,175	\$1,056,350	Alternate
16	42.25	22-1711 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Torres Dairy	\$401,562	\$401,563	\$803,125	Alternate
17	36.38	22-1668 A	Washington Farmland Trust	Coyote Bank Farm Conservation Easement	\$146,750	\$146,750	\$293,500	Alternate
18	22.75	22-1688 A	Forterra	Kreger Lake Pavlov Parcel	\$79,250	\$79,250	\$158,500	Not Funded ²
Total					\$19,429,263	\$8,851,263	\$28,280,526	\$10,359,360

¹Project type: A=Acquisition

²Applicant did not certify match. Project is not eligible for funding.

³Partial funding

Evaluation Scores

Farmland Preservation Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2023-2025

Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
		Point Range	0-16	0-10	0-4	0-4	0-4	0-6	0-2	0-6	0-2	0-2	-10-0	
1	22-1662 A	Bell's Farm Expansion	15.50	9.62	3.88	4.00	3.50	5.38	2.00	4.88	1.62	2.00	0.00	52.38
2	22-1435 A	Zakarison Farmland Protection	15.38	7.75	3.50	3.88	3.88	5.50	1.50	5.62	2.00	2.00	0.00	51.00
3	22-1322 A	Jacoby Agricultural Conservation Easement	15.12	8.38	4.00	3.88	3.75	5.38	1.25	5.00	1.88	2.00	0.00	50.63
4	22-1408 A	Quilcene Farmland Preservation	14.88	9.25	3.62	3.38	2.75	5.50	2.00	5.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	50.38
4	22-1681 A	Little Klickitat River Century Farm	15.38	9.38	3.88	3.75	4.00	5.88	1.75	5.62	0.75	0.00	0.00	50.38
6	22-1643 A	Welcome Table Farm Conservation Easement	14.12	8.75	3.75	3.88	3.75	5.50	1.75	5.62	2.00	0.00	0.00	49.13
7	22-1524 A	Mid Valley Farm	15.12	9.00	3.50	3.38	3.75	3.62	1.12	5.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	48.50

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition

Evaluation Scores

Farmland Preservation Category

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8	22-1230 A	Wolf Creek Agricultural Conservation Easement Phase 2	15.00	9.50	3.38	3.50	3.12	4.88	1.88	4.75	1.88	0.00	0.00	47.88
9	22-1533 A	The Dungeness Hub Nash's Organic Produce	15.25	7.50	3.75	3.88	1.88	4.75	1.62	5.12	2.00	2.00	0.00	47.75
10	22-1541 A	Davenport Cattle Agricultural Easement	15.00	7.75	3.50	3.88	3.50	5.50	1.25	5.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	47.38
11	22-1545 A	Emerick Rangeland Preservation	14.25	8.50	3.75	3.62	2.75	4.88	1.62	5.25	2.00	0.00	0.00	46.63
12	22-1544 A	Swauk Prairie Farms	14.00	9.50	3.62	3.88	3.50	4.00	1.62	4.38	2.00	0.00	0.00	46.50
13	22-1649 A	Spencer Farm	14.38	9.25	3.62	3.88	3.75	5.12	1.75	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.50
14	22-1617 A	Similkameen-Wahl Ranch	14.75	7.12	3.00	3.88	4.00	4.25	1.38	4.00	1.88	0.00	0.00	44.25
15	22-1722 A	Parlette Orchard	14.38	7.75	3.88	3.62	3.12	3.00	1.62	4.12	1.38	0.00	0.00	42.88

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition

Evaluation Scores

Farmland Preservation Category

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Rank	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	1. Viability of the Site	2. Threat to the Land	3. Access to Markets	4. On-site Infrastructure	5. Building Envelope	6. Farmland Stewardship	7. Stewardship Practices	8. Benefits to the Community	9. Community Support	10. Match	11. Easement Duration	Total
16	22-1711 A	Torres Dairy	13.62	7.75	3.62	4.00	3.38	3.88	1.50	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.25
17	22-1668 A	Coyote Bank Farm Conservation Easement	11.00	7.00	3.50	3.25	2.12	3.50	0.50	3.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	36.38
18	22-1688 A	Kreger Lake Pavlov Parcel	9.00	5.62	1.88	2.88	1.50	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.75

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition

Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

Whidbey Camano Land Trust Expanding Bell's Farm

Grant Requested: \$1,069,250

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy conservation easements¹ on 214 acres of historic, working farmland near Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. The purchase would expand the historic Bell's Farm, which was purchased by the Mueller family in 1946. The farm raises about 35 head of ancient white park cattle, 125 sheep, 60 hogs, 6 acres of strawberries, and 2 acres of market garden as well as producing hay for the animals. The farm employs 11 full-time workers and more than 40 seasonal workers. Its sweet, June strawberries are a renowned Whidbey Island tradition. Since, the farm owners have reinvigorated Bell's with a focus on organic, regenerative practices, turning around a struggling operation into a thriving hub of local food production and education. Using the animals in a rotational grazing system combined with regular soil testing, Bell's uses no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides. Conservation of the additional land will allow Bell's to expand and provide more public access and an incubator site for beginning farmers. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.3 million in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1662)

Palouse Land Trust Conserving Zakarison Farmland

Grant Requested: \$249,278

The Palouse Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement² on about 607 acres of the Zakarison family farm on State Route 27, about 5 miles north of Pullman. With close proximity to Pullman and sweeping views of Kamiak Butte and Moscow Mountain, the land will become increasingly desirable for future home sites if not conserved. The farm produces wheat, hay, oats, poultry, and lamb and hosts a feed grain business that serves dozens of families. The Zakarison family experiments with growing a rotation of specialty grains, oil seed crops, and cover crops to increase the fertility of soil, and integrates livestock as part of the regenerative strategy. The land trust intends to buy all but one development right and eliminate future division of this agricultural land. The Palouse Land Trust will contribute \$331,903 in a federal appropriation, a state grant, and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1435)

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Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

Whatcom County Conserving a Dairy Farm

Grant Requested: \$169,650

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a conservation easement³ on 100 acres of prime agricultural soils and forestland on the Jacoby property, 13 miles east of Bellingham. The land supports Coldstream Farm, a dairy that is a leader in environmental sustainability. The purchase will remove two development rights and protect working lands in an area of increasing development pressure. The land is next to land owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and Whatcom County South Fork Park. Conservation of the land will move Whatcom County closer to its goal of protecting 100,000 acres of land for agriculture. Whatcom County will contribute \$207,350 in Conservation Futures.⁴ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1322)

Jefferson Land Trust Preserving Quilcene Farmland

Grant Requested: \$750,000

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy conservation easements⁵ on Humbleberry and Schmidt Farms, located next to each other about 1 mile northeast of Quilcene at the head of Quilcene Bay. The farms have 115 acres of working farmland, prime agricultural soils, parts of salmon-spawning Jakeway and Donovan Creeks, and wetlands. The farms are next to other permanently protected fish habitat, farmland, and working forestland properties. Conserving the land will prevent subdivision and eliminate the estimated four remaining development rights. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$979,200 in Conservation Futures⁶ and a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1408)

Columbia Land Trust Preserving Centennial Farm

Grant Requested: \$1,605,000

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 1,983 acres of one of the oldest farm ownerships in Washington State—Centennial Farm, called such because it has been managed continuously by the same family for more than 100 years. The farm is 5 miles west of Goldendale and contains irrigated pasture for hay, cattle, and chickens. More than 80 percent of the farm's

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⁴Conservation 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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⁶Conservation 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)

soils are classified as prime or Washington Farmland of Statewide Importance. In addition to its agricultural values, the easement will help protect irrigation practices that provide much-needed late season water in the Little Klickitat River for mid-Columbia River summer steelhead trout, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. The conservation easement will remove up to 99 potential development rights in a rapidly developing corner of the state to ensure that the property remains viable for farming forever. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.6 million in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1681)

Blue Mountain Land Trust Conserving Welcome Table Farm

Grant Requested: \$345,500

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to buy an agricultural conservation easement⁷ on the 25-acre Welcome Table Farm, on Old Milton Highway in Walla Walla. Welcome Table Farm has been growing a variety of fruits, vegetables, and flowers for 10 years. The farm also hosts college interns, annual kids' summer camps, and educational events for the community, highlighting the importance of locally produced food. In addition, the farm includes about a half-mile of Yellow Hawk Creek, which is an important tributary for steelhead and bull trout, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act, trying to reach Mill Creek. While the area has historically been farmland, increasing development and conversion to non-farm uses has occurred nearby in recent years. An agricultural easement on this property will ensure that the productive farmland remains in agricultural use. The Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$357,500 in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1643)

North Olympic Land Trust Preserving Mid Valley Farm

Grant Requested: \$421,180

The North Olympic Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement⁸ for the 54-acre Mid Valley Farm. The farm is on the edge of the rapidly expanding Sequim, and is integral to Maple View Farm, one of the last two dairies in Clallam County. Preservation of Mid Valley Farm will protect this critically important link to the agricultural history of western Washington, preserve prime agricultural soils, and extinguish at least nine development rights on lands best suited for agriculture. The conservation of Mid Valley Farm also will meet recreation goals by preserving rural scenic vistas for bicyclists and drivers along this busy route,

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Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

and for birders who enjoy the state-protected trumpeter and tundra swans that use fields in the winter. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$514,779 in Conservation Futures⁹ and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1524)

Methow Conservancy

Grant Requested: \$1,279,250

Continuing to Conserve Wolf Creek Farmland

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁰ and permanently protect 101 acres of Wolf Creek farmland in the Methow Valley. The farm contains high-quality soils, wetlands, scenic views along public trails and roads, and senior, adjudicated water rights, which will be tied to the land forever as part of the easement. This is the second phase of a project to conserve Wolf Creek farmland. The Methow Conservancy will contribute more than \$1.2 million in donations of labor, land or property interest, and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1230)

North Olympic Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$137,631

Conserving a Dungeness Hub Farm

The North Olympic Land Trust will use grant to buy a conservation easement¹¹ to conserve the 9.79-acre Dungeness Hub, owned by Nash's Organic Produce, one of the first organic farms in western Washington. The Dungeness area of Sequim is renowned as the agricultural heart of Clallam County, which is at great risk of development. The farm contains prime agricultural soil and serves as a hub by supporting several surrounding farms with infrastructure, including a packing shed, large walk-in cooler, office space, greenhouses, and ready access to water in an area that receives less than 20 inches of rain annually. The farm is in the middle of 600 acres of already conserved land for farming, waterfowl, and river restoration. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$168,218 in Conservation Futures¹² and a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1533)

⁹Conservation 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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Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

Washington State Conservation Commission Conserving Davenport Cattle

Grant Requested: \$3,492,195

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹³ to permanently protect 5,867 acres of Davenport Cattle, a multi-generational, family-owned farm and ranch established in 1876 in Klickitat County. The farm produces cattle, hay, and grain. The easement will extinguish 958 development rights. The farm is one of the largest and oldest farms in Klickitat County and likely in Washington State. The proposed project consists of 27 separate parcels under two different family ownerships that support different aspects of the overall operation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1541)

Washington State Conservation Commission Preserving Emerick Rangeland

Grant Requested: \$1,460,550

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁴ on 2,576 acres of rangeland in Yakima County. The land supports quality grazing opportunities for 150 cows. The easement will protect the early spring and summer pasture permanently, which is a critical piece of the overall farm business. In addition, the land provides critical habitat to many animals and plant communities, several of which are unique to this landscape and listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The landowners already have the fourth and fifth generations lined up to continue the operation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1545)

Washington State Conservation Commission Conserving Swauk Prairie Farms

Grant Requested: \$6,373,917

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁵ on 601 acres to preserve Swauk Prairie Farms and allow farming to continue into the future. Designated a State Centennial Farm, the farm produces hay and is used for livestock grazing. Conserving the farm will protect three "habitats of greatest conservation need" including Columbia Basin foothill riparian woodland and shrubland, inter-mountain basins big sagebrush steppe habitat, and northern Rocky Mountain ponderosa pine woodland. The farm also is 1.5 miles from the Teanaway Community Forest, a 50,241-acre landscape that lies at the

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Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

headwaters of the Yakima River Basin watershed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1544)

Washington Farmland Trust Conserving Spencer Farm Near Chehalis

Grant Requested: \$271,750

Washington Farmland Trust will use grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁶ on about 130 acres of prime farmland near Chehalis. The Spencer Farm is surrounded on three sides by the Newaukum River, and its closeness to Napavine makes it attractive for rural development. The easement will extinguish 12 development rights, permit the current landowner to continue farming his family's farm, and conserve agricultural land along the river. The Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$271,750 in a state grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1649)

Okanogan Land Trust Conserving the Similkameen-Wahl Ranch

Grant Requested: \$648,375

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁷ to protect 464 acres of agricultural land along the Similkameen River, about 13 miles north of Loomis in Okanogan County. The Similkameen-Wahl Ranch includes significant acreage of both Prime Farmland Soils and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Farmed for more than 100 years, the land is owned by a multi-generation ranching family. The easement would enable the owners to solidify their ranching operation and pass it to the next generation, free from subdivision and development pressures. The land is next to the Similkameen-Chopaka Wildlife Unit, which is owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and near other lands protected by government, tribe, and nonprofits. It provides a substantial corridor of protection along the Similkameen River. In addition, the seasonal grazing pastures and irrigated meadows provide habitat for elk, moose, bear, deer, and a wide variety of bird species. The Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$648,375 in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1617)

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Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

Washington Farmland Trust Conserving the Parlette Cherry Orchard

Grant Requested: \$528,175

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁸ on Parlette Orchard in the Wenatchee Heights area, southeast of Wenatchee. The easement will extinguish 11 development rights and permanently protect the 67-acre farm with an established cherry orchard for agricultural production forever. Chelan County's nationally valuable irrigated orchard lands are under enormous development pressure. Located on soils of statewide significance for orchard production, with senior water rights, and ideal elevation, the Parlette Orchard is in a location uniquely resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$528,175 in donations of land or property interest and cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1722)

Washington Farmland Trust Conserving the Torres Dairy

Grant Requested: \$401,562

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement¹⁹ to preserve more than 350 acres of prime farmland and critical habitat in the Chehalis River basin and help ensure a dairy remains forever. Jose Torres started on the farm as a milker when the Goeres family owned and operated the entire operation. During the past decade, the Torres family has taken on more of the operation, and eventually purchased the business. An easement on the entirety of the land that supports the dairy will facilitate the sale of the remainder of the land and buildings to the Torres family by making it more affordable. Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$401,563 in a federal grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1711)

Washington Farmland Trust Preserving Coyote Bank Farm

Grant Requested: \$146,750

Washington Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²⁰ on Coyote Bank Farm, conserving about 11 acres and extinguishing the farm's remaining development right. This project is a high priority because it preserves a smaller farm, which will be more affordable to future generations of farmers. Located outside of Acme, Coyote Bank Farm is next to Jones Creek and surrounded by several hundred acres of agricultural land and open space that is being conserved as part of a larger initiative of Whatcom County. The easement will protect the

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Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)

farm and allow for compatible wildlife habitat restoration. Washington Farmland Trust will contribute \$146,750 in a private grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1668)

Forterra Northwest Conserving Farmland near Kreger Lake

Grant Requested: \$79,250

Forterra Northwest will use this grant to buy a conservation easement²¹ on 20 acres, known as the Pavlov parcel, located southwest of Kreger Lake and an hour south of Tacoma. The land is farmed and grazed for family use and sale of the surplus. Conservation of the land will protect 20 acres of soils of statewide importance. Forterra will contribute \$79,250 in a state appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs](#) of this project. (22-1688)

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