

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL STATE LAND ACQUISITION COORDINATING FORUM

October 30, 2013

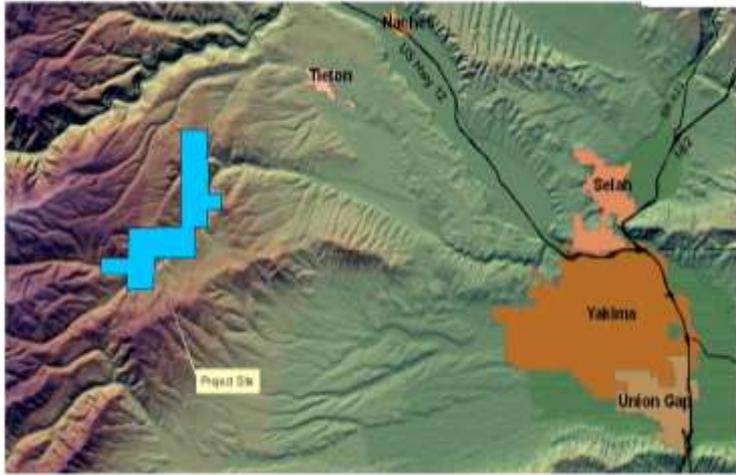
Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

Program mission - The State Conservation Commission (SCC) is responsible for the implementation of the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) and those activities identified in the OFP statute. SCC has identified agricultural conservation easements as a valuable tool to assist in farmland preservation and advancing conservation with willing landowners. In addition, SCC is authorized to sponsor acquisition proposals from conservation districts for funding from WWRP.

Process for choosing properties – Projects are in partnership with local conservation districts (CD). CDs work with landowners on a voluntary basis to providing incentive-based conservation help on private lands. Some CDs have identified farmland preservation as an incentive tool to work with private landowners. Once a project has been identified, CD submits an Agricultural Conservation Easement Worksheet. This worksheet serves as an intake form for OFP and will allow staff the ability to gauge whether the project meets the goals and outcomes identified by SCC. Projects considerations:

- a) Project Characteristics (size, production, infrastructure, surround land, etc.)
- b) CD willingness and capacity
- c) Threat of conversion

Public outreach – Projects are identified by locally elected CD supervisors and board members. SCC staff participate in meetings and discussions about easement option.



County Summary of Proposed Acquisitions

Total Estimated Acres – 4,516

Total Funded Amount - \$2,192,680

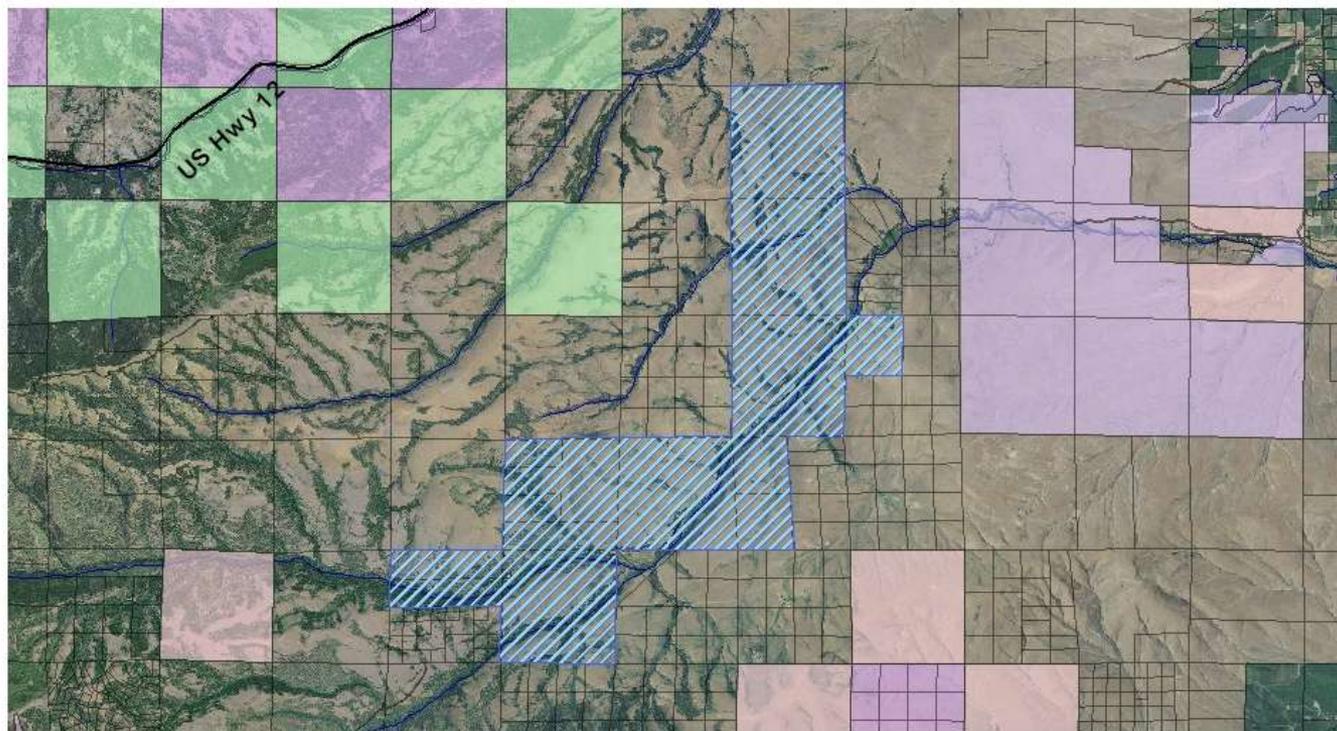


Proposed Acquisitions	Agency	Estimated Acres	Funded Amount	Acquisition Type	Source of Funding	Legislative District
Cowiche Basin Working Rangelands	Washington State Conservation Commission	4,516	\$2,192,680	Agricultural Conservation Easement	WWRP Farmland	14

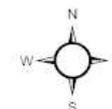
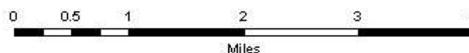


Site Map

Cowiche Basin Working Rangelands



-  Van Wyk Ranch
-  US Bureau of Land Management
-  US Forest Service: National Forest
-  WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
-  WA Dept. of Natural Resources



Agency	Agency Name
Project Description	The easement will be purchased from a single private owner to keep the rangeland pasture intact and undeveloped. Maintaining the viability of this operation is expected to yield an annual economic input of over \$775,000 to Yakima County. Project includes a significant portion of the Cowiche Creek drainage, with over 4 miles of Cowiche Creek included in the project area.
Estimated Acres	4,516
Funded Amount	\$2,192,680
Type of Acquisition	Perpetual Agricultural Conservation Easement
Source of Funding	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation Program
Legislative District	14
Existing Uses	Grazing
Intended Uses	Continued grazing
Future Capital Costs	Private ownership
Future Operating Costs	Annual Monitoring
PILT Estimate	NA





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