December 3, 2013

The Honorable Jim Honeyford  
Capital Budget Chair, Senate Ways and Means  
Washington State Senate  
P. O. Box 40415  
Olympia, WA 98504-0415

The Honorable Hans Dunshee  
Chair, House Capital Budget Committee  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P. O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Sharon Nelson  
Assistant Ranking Member, Senate Ways and Means  
Washington State Senate  
P. O. Box 40434  
Olympia, WA 98504-0434

The Honorable Richard DeBolt  
Ranking Minority Member, House Capital Budget Committee  
Washington State House of Representatives  
P. O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: Inventory of Agricultural Land Holdings


Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5035 Section 3191 directed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to prepare an inventory of its agricultural land holdings. I have enclosed for your review an inventory in tabular format along with an explanatory narrative.

The Department manages slightly over 900,000 acres spread across 32 wildlife areas for the benefit of fish, wildlife and the people of Washington State. On 20 of these wildlife areas, the Department has entered into 69 crop leases involving 13,499 acres. The Department has also issued 41 grazing permits on 55,019 acres across 15 wildlife areas. In conducting this inventory, the Department has identified 49 water rights and 13 water delivery agreements that are supporting these agricultural activities.

As evidenced by this inventory, the Department continues to value partnerships that establish and maintain these agricultural activities that also are consistent with our mandate to provide for fish and wildlife conservation and recreational benefits. The Department lands play a key role in the broader public/private working landscape that helps further conservation of the state’s wildlife resources and rural economies.

The enclosed narrative explains the various elements of this inventory. Further enclosures provide Water Right Data and Agricultural Activity Inventory in tabular format by
parcel. Grazing Permit terms and Agricultural Lease terms are included in the fourth and fifth enclosure.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Philip Anderson
Director

Enclosures

cc: Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Recreation and Conservation Office
    Brian Sims, Senate Capital Budget
    Meg Van Schoorl, House Capital Budget
    Ann Larson, Legislative Liaison, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife