

WELCOME!

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Short's Farm Steering Committee Meeting - March 6th, 2024

Prepared by

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Agenda

- > Statement of Purpose
- > Introductions
- > Expectation Setting
- > Existing Conditions of Short's Farm
- Break-
- > What Is Visioning?
- > Visioning Goals and Methods
- > Visioning Meeting Group Activity
- > Closing and Thank You

Why Are We Here Today?

> Goals:

- Create a shared understanding of existing conditions
- Set goals and expectations for the future meetings with the public
- Build trust and rapport between UW and the FSC

Introductions!

Introductions!

- > **Your name**
- > **Your organization**
- > **What brings you to the FSC?**

UW's Involvement

- > Facilitate public engagement to capture ideas for the property's future
- > Evaluate potential future uses
- > Report findings to the Steering Committee

Expectations for the Farm Project

Port Commission's Key Objectives:

- > Create tangible benefits for local farmers + expand local agricultural production
- > Materially improve the environmental conditions and habitat functions
- > Achieve 9.5% rate of return on the Port's investment
- > Remain consistent with existing land use and regulatory requirements



Existing Conditions of Short's Farm

Infrastructure + Land Use



Existing Facilities, Buildings, & Services

- > Roads – Roughly 5,330 feet of unpaved single-lane dirt farm roads.
- > Water & Sewer – Two private wells on the property. Four onsite septic systems on property.
- > Electricity – Overhead transmission lines provide electricity and telephone service. Service provided by Public Utilities District (PUD) of Jefferson County
- > Additional Services:
 - Garbage waste service provided by Olympic Disposal
 - Fire service provided by East Jefferson Fire & Rescue (District 1)
 - Law Enforcement: Central Area District Patrol District N4 of Jefferson County Sheriff

Existing Conditions

Map of property, the 4 vital buildings:

1. Main Residence.
2. Milking Parlor “now used for selling farm products”.
3. Original Barn built in the 1880’s.
4. Mound Shed.



Important Structures

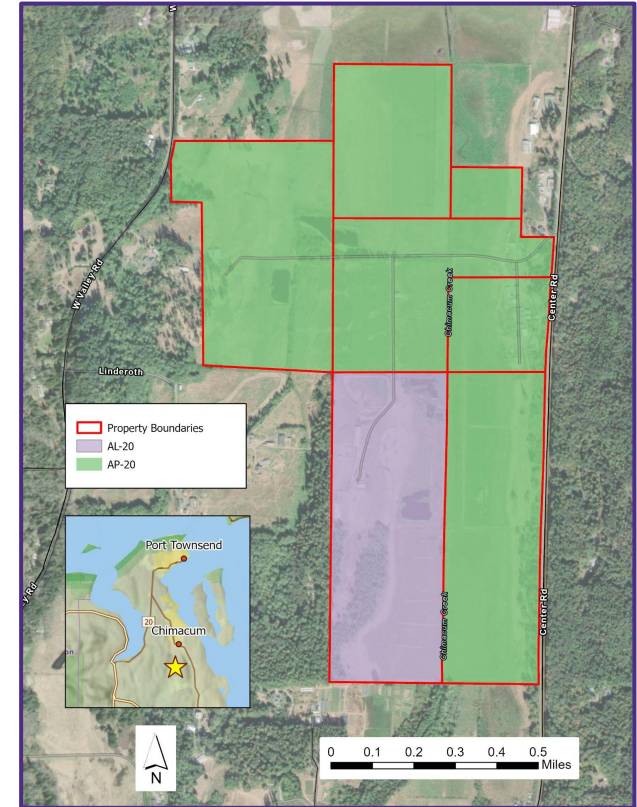


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Infrastructure + Land Use

Land Use & Zoning

- > Seven parcels, all zoned:
 - **AP-20 Zoning/Prime Agricultural Lands** (Green)
 - **AL-20 Zoning/Agricultural Lands of Local Importance** (Purple)
- > Current uses conform to this zoning
- > Adjacent parcels are zoned either agricultural, residential, or forest



Conservation + Ecological Features

Conservation Easement

- > “Protect the conservation values in perpetuity”



Objectives ensure no net loss of agricultural activities:

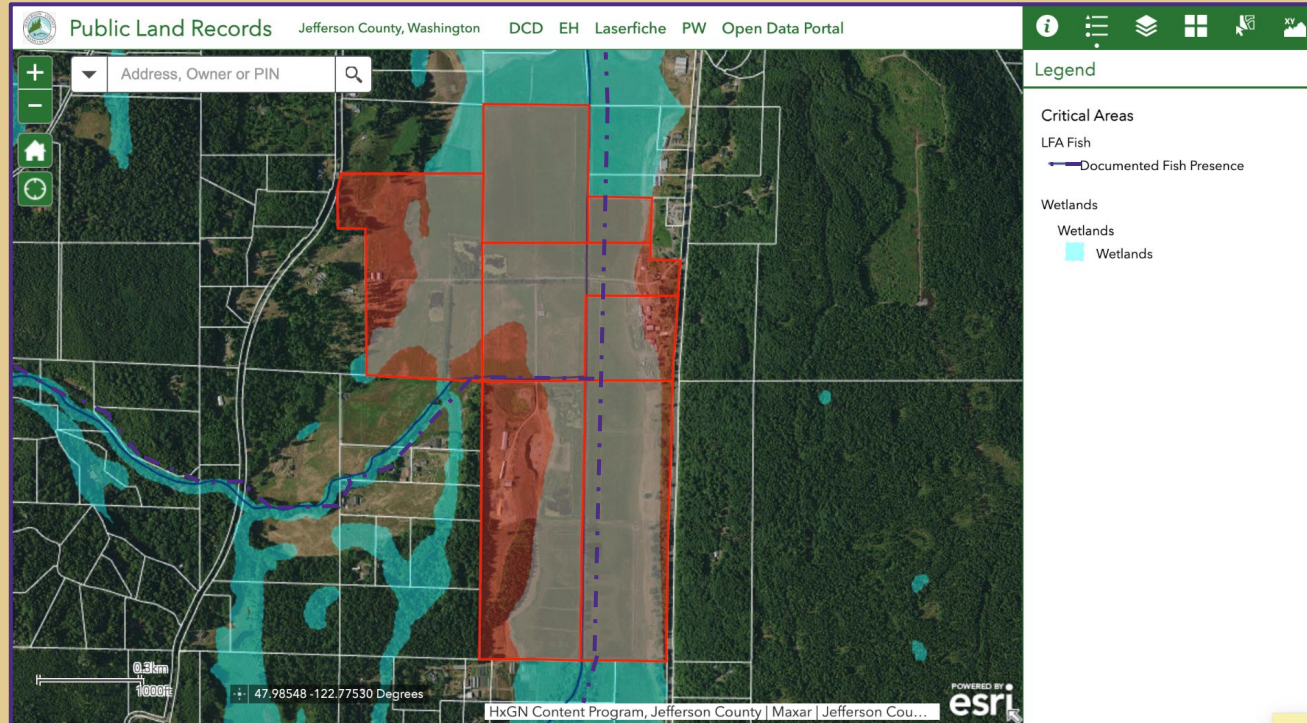
- > Flood management
- > Continue rotational grazing
- > Document water usage
- > Monitor & remove invasive species
- > Maintain current agricultural infrastructure

Objectives to protect critical areas:

- > Maintain exclusion fencing along the creek
- > Manage existing wetland ponds
- > Continue rotational grazing
- > Managing forested areas

Conservation + Ecological Features

Critical areas designations on the property



Conservation + Ecological Features

Flooding concerns

- > Shallow gradient (0.4% avg.) and broad stream valleys
- > Sediment accumulation from slow water flow
- > Reed canarygrass
- > Increased average rainfall predicted, and drier summers
- > Jefferson County Drainage District operated 1919-1974



Agricultural + Economic Context

Major Economic Activity in Chimacum is Agriculture

- > The Valley is “Prime Farmland”
- > Small farms rule the land
 - 143 of 188 farms in JeffCo are under 49 acres
- > “Regenerative” and “Sustainable” Practices Abound
- > Local Demand = \$\$\$
 - Chimacum Corner local product inventory has grown 300% in 14 years
 - CSA orders seem to have large support



Agricultural + Economic Context

What Seems to Be Missing?

- > No USDA-approved Processing Facilities in the Area
- > Value-Added Products appear to be on Farm-by-Farm basis
- > Organic Certification is Costly and Complex
- > Investment or Collective Dollars



Relevant Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Policies

Encouraged activity	Policy Number
Programs providing education, job training and retraining, mentorships, apprenticeships and skill enhancement	EDP. 2.4
Businesses that: Pay living wages; Mitigate their impacts on public infrastructure and the natural environment; Add value to natural resources; Are environmentally sound; Expand the County's tax base; Enrich the County's cultural and healthcare resources; and Address the needs of an aging population	EDP 3.2
Public-private cooperative partnerships	EDP 4.1
New sustainable natural resource-based activities in rural areas to increase employment	EDP 6.2
Businesses that produce value-added products	EDP 6.6
Future innovative agriculture ventures and technologies	EDP 6.7
Agricultural tourism, eco-tourism, and native and cultural tourism	EDP 8.1
Small businesses, services, cultural attractions, and special events to capture and support tourism	EDP 8.3

Break Time

What Is Visioning?

Visioning is what it sounds like... defining a vision for the future of the community centered on the tasks at hand

Visioning typically asks the following:

- > Where Have We Been?
- > Where Are We Now?
- > Where Are We Going?
- > Where Do We Want to Go?
- > How Do We Get There?

Visioning: Goals and Methods

The goal of visioning is to help local residents focus on key community issues.

- > **Charette**
 - Open to the entire community
 - Interactive discussion on physical aspects of the community & needs
- > **Focus Group**
 - 10-20 people invited, often a representative cross section of the community
 - Specific discussion on current characteristics & future community needs
- > **Survey**
 - Open to the entire community (often shared online)
 - Gauge general opinion on current characteristics & future needs

Break Out Groups

Next Steps

Thank You!

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