

From Thurston County
Follow up to the Working Lands / HCP meeting



Webmail sent: March 4, 2016

Greetings from Thurston County's Long Range Planning Division

Thank you for coming to the Working Lands meeting

We appreciate your willingness to learn about the Prairie Habitat Conservation Plan and share your ideas and concerns.

HERE'S SOME INFORMATION FOR YOU

- The [presentation slides](#) from our Working Lands meeting.
 - The [agricultural exemptions](#) (also known as the 4D rule) relating to the Endangered Species Act listing of the Mazama pocket gopher.
 - [Information about Mazama pocket gophers](#) from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website. USFWS is the federal agency who added them to the Endangered Species Act list.
 - A link to [Thurston County's Habitat Conservation Plan website](#).
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HERE'S WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

- Certainty in the permit process for barns and other buildings is important.
- Sharing the cost of conservation with everyone in the County is important.
- As conservation happens, prioritize a strategy that protects ag lands and avoids creating a net loss.
- Working Lands conservation might include payment for permanent easements, 99 year leases, or 15-year leases.
- Assurances for working lands AND for neighboring

landowners is important. A radius for neighboring landowners should apply to the whole parcel, not just a corner of a property.

- Thurston Conservation District may be a good choice to implement a Working Lands Program--working with landowners, monitoring, providing technical assistance, etc.

Did we miss anything important? If so, please let us know. The staff contact is Thurston County's Senior Planner, Jeremy Davis. You can email him at DavisJ@co.thurston.wa.us.

WE'LL UPDATE THE HCP & ASK TO MEET WITH YOU AGAIN

We'll work on conservation and funding solutions that include your ideas.

We'll also share these meeting slides and notes with Thurston County's Voluntary Stewardship Program work group and the good people at Thurston County Conservation District. We'll ask for their help to formulate, communicate and implement solutions.

Once an updated draft Habitat Conservation Plan is ready, we'll meet again -- and this time we'll make it somewhere closer to you!

Again, we sincerely appreciate your input and hope that you will continue to participate.

Thurston County Long Range Planning Staff

OUR WEBSITE:
www.thurstonplanning.org