



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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District One
Sandra Romero
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District Three

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 9, 2013

Mr. Frank O'Leary
Northwest Rangeland Trust
1535 Havstad Dr.
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on January 8, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Northwest Rangeland Trust's (NWRT) revised request for the Mahan Farm conservation easement project. The project is to purchase approximately 302 acres of conservation easement. The easement will include both an agricultural use purpose, and a prairie and oak woodland restoration purpose.

The County will provide a maximum of either 50% of the final appraised conservation easement value or \$400,000 whichever is less; and at least 50% of the easement value needs to come from a Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) funding source. The Northwest Rangeland Trust needs to receive an obligation of the NRCS funds by December 31, 2013.

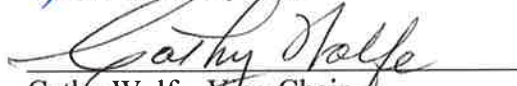
The County's Conservation Futures contribution can also pay for any associated costs, as long as the total project costs do not exceed the amount of the award.

With the contribution of these funds, the County will be granted third-party enforcement rights (along with NRCS) to the recorded easement, with NWRT as the primary grantee and easement holder.

Thank you for your interest in the Thurston County Conservation Futures program. Please contact Mark Swartout in our Planning Department at (360) 709-3079 or swartom@co.thurston.wa.us should you have any questions about this award.

Sincerely,


Sandra Romero, Chair


Cathy Wolfe, Vice-Chair


Karen Valenzuela, Commissioner

cc: Mr. Larry Mahan