

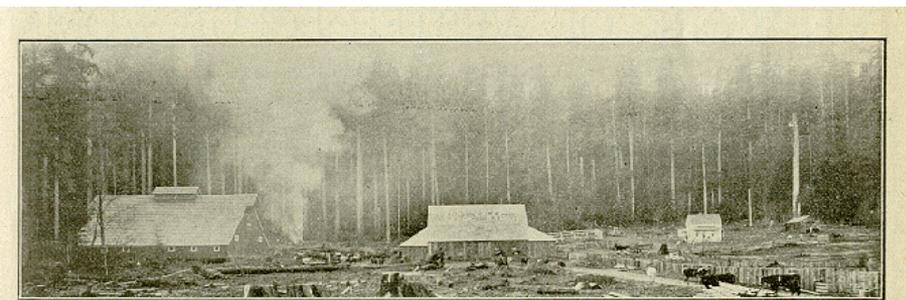


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Planning for Agriculture in Washington State

Under the Growth Management Act



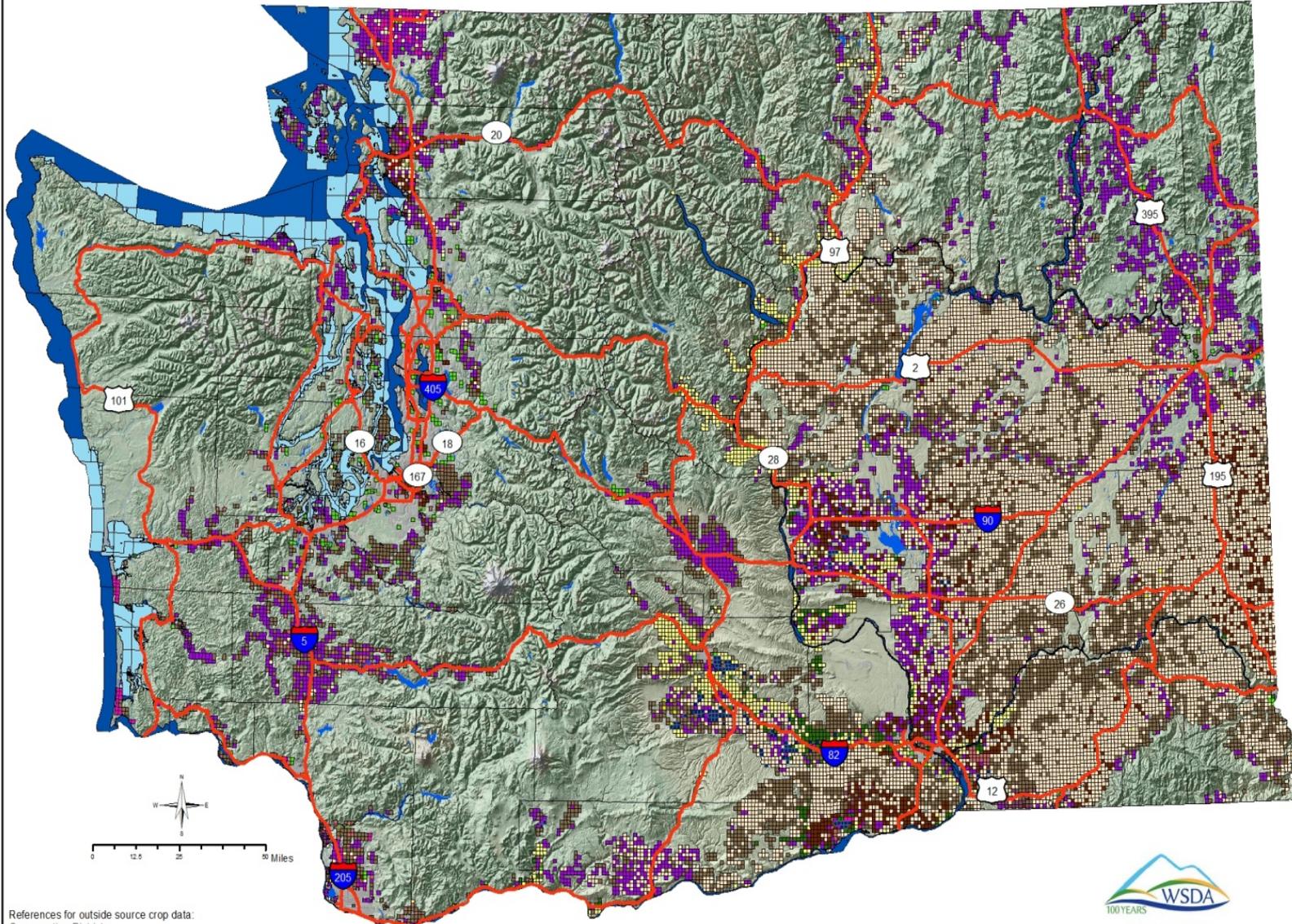
A Home on the Logged-off Land.

December 2014

Acre-Tract Farmers of Puget Sound

2012 Washington State Agricultural Land Use

Legend								
Crop	Cereal Grain	Flower Bulb	Hay/Silage	Melon	Oilseed	Other	Shellfish	Vegetable
	Berry	Commercial Tree	Green Manure	Herb	Nursery	Orchard	Seed	Turfgrass
								Vineyard



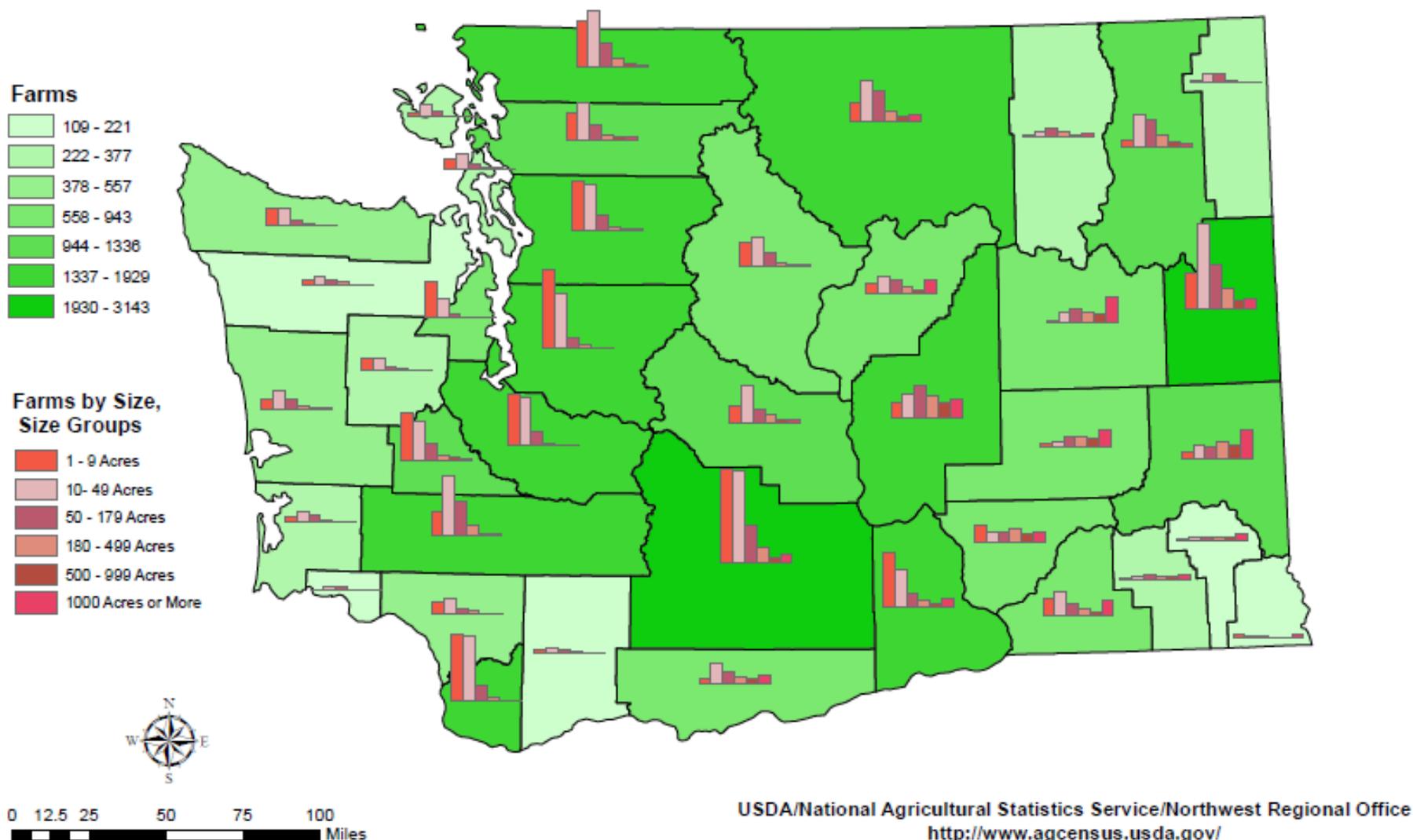
References for outside source crop data:
 Conservation Districts
 Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)
 Washington State Department of Health (DOH)

This map represents data collected and generated between 2002 and 2012. The dominant crop (by acres) in each section of land is shown. This product is provided 'as is' without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular use.

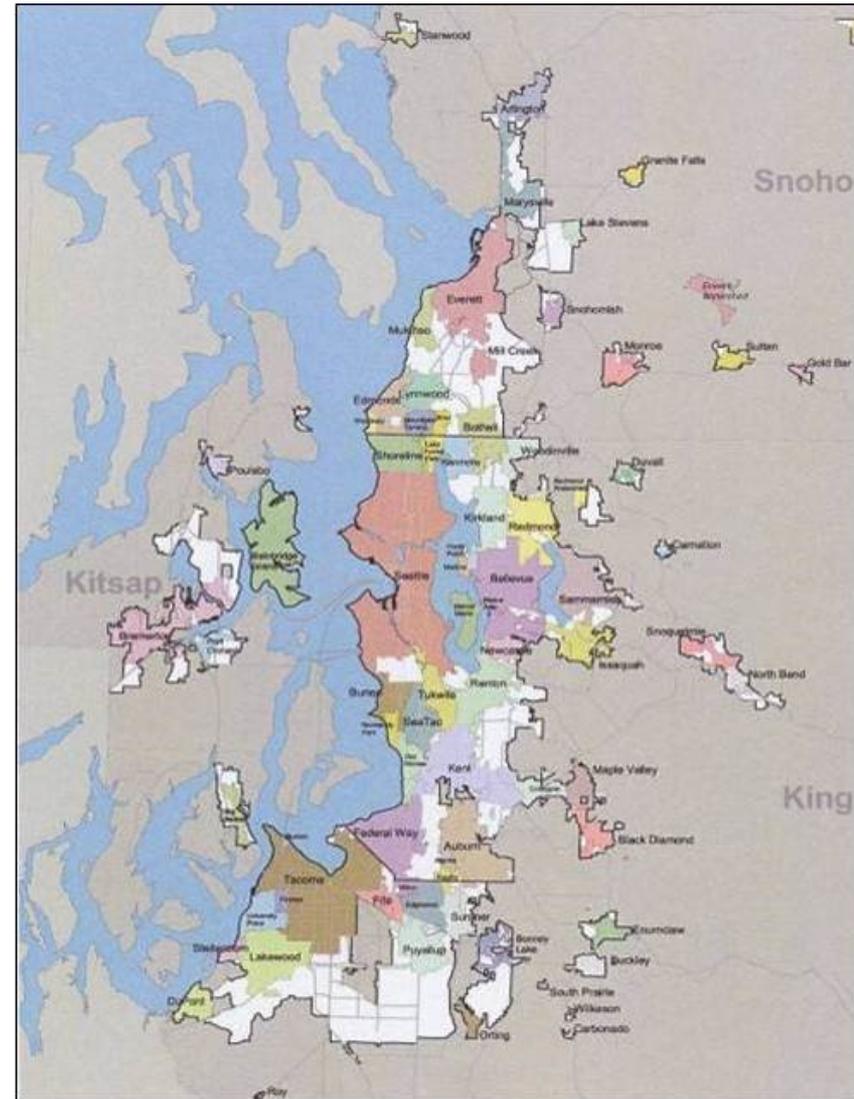
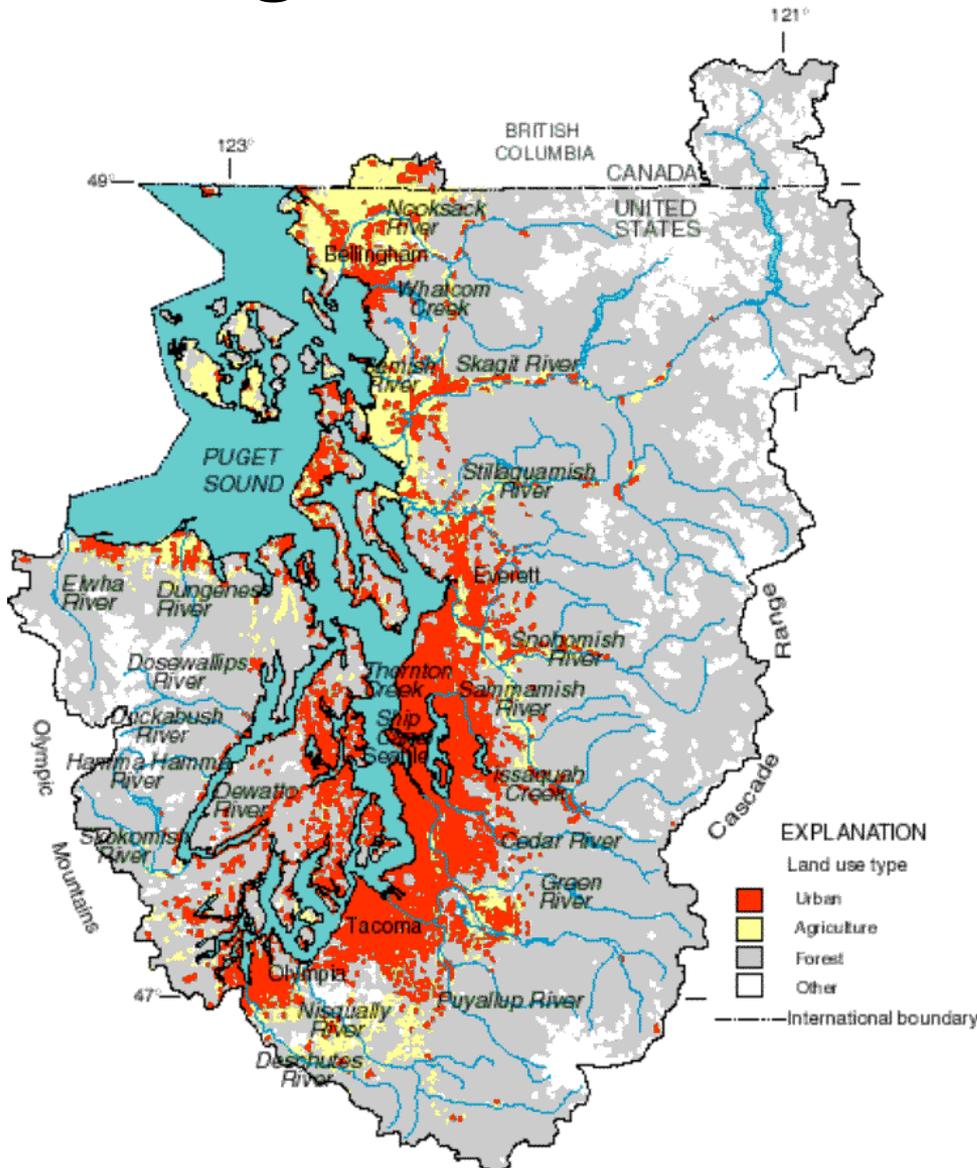


Scale 1:2,250,000
 Natural Resources Assessment Section
<http://www.agr.wa.gov/PestFert/natresources/AgLandUse.aspx>
 Perry Beale, March 2013

2012 Census of Agriculture - Farms and Farms by Size Washington - 37,249 Farms



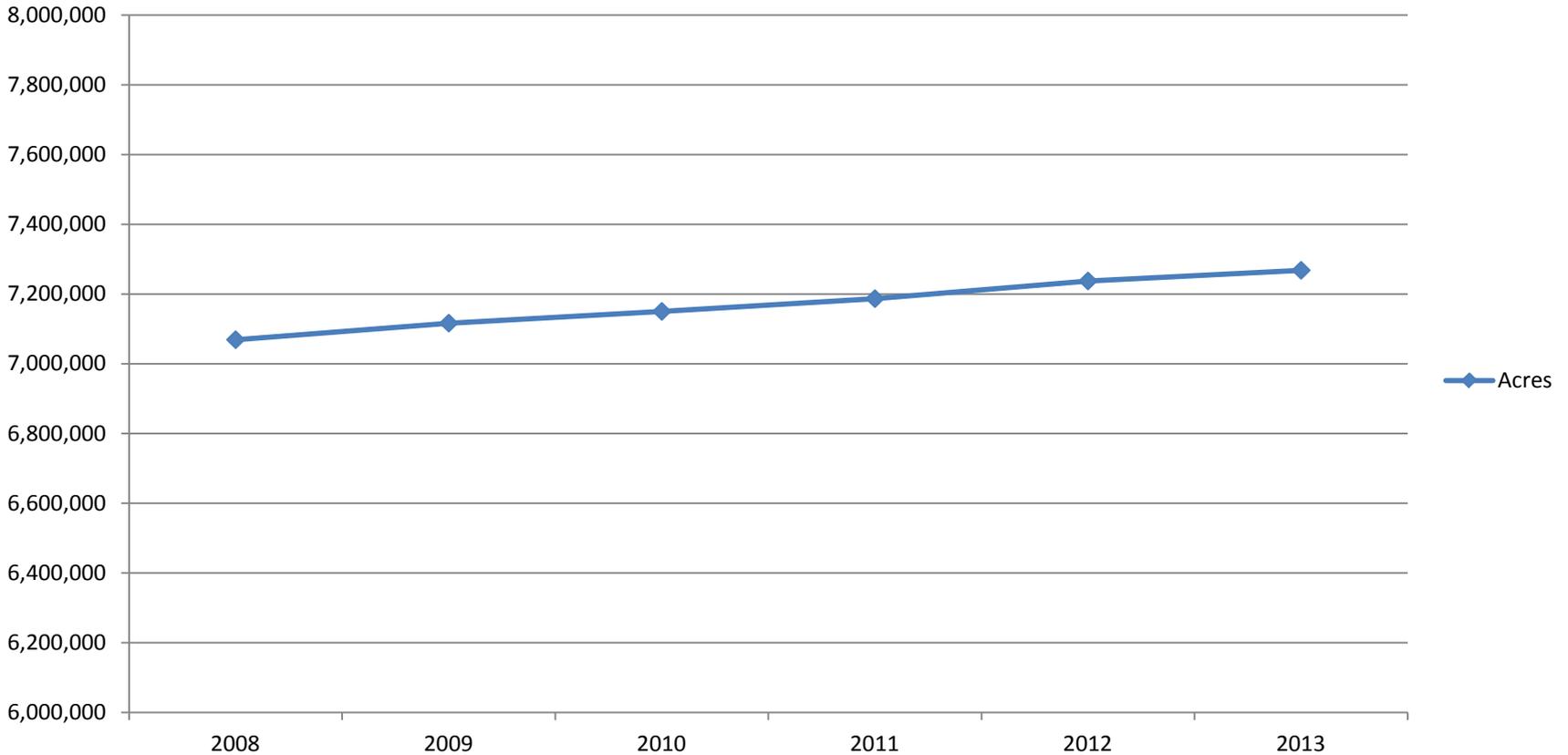
Puget Sound Land Use & Pugetopolis



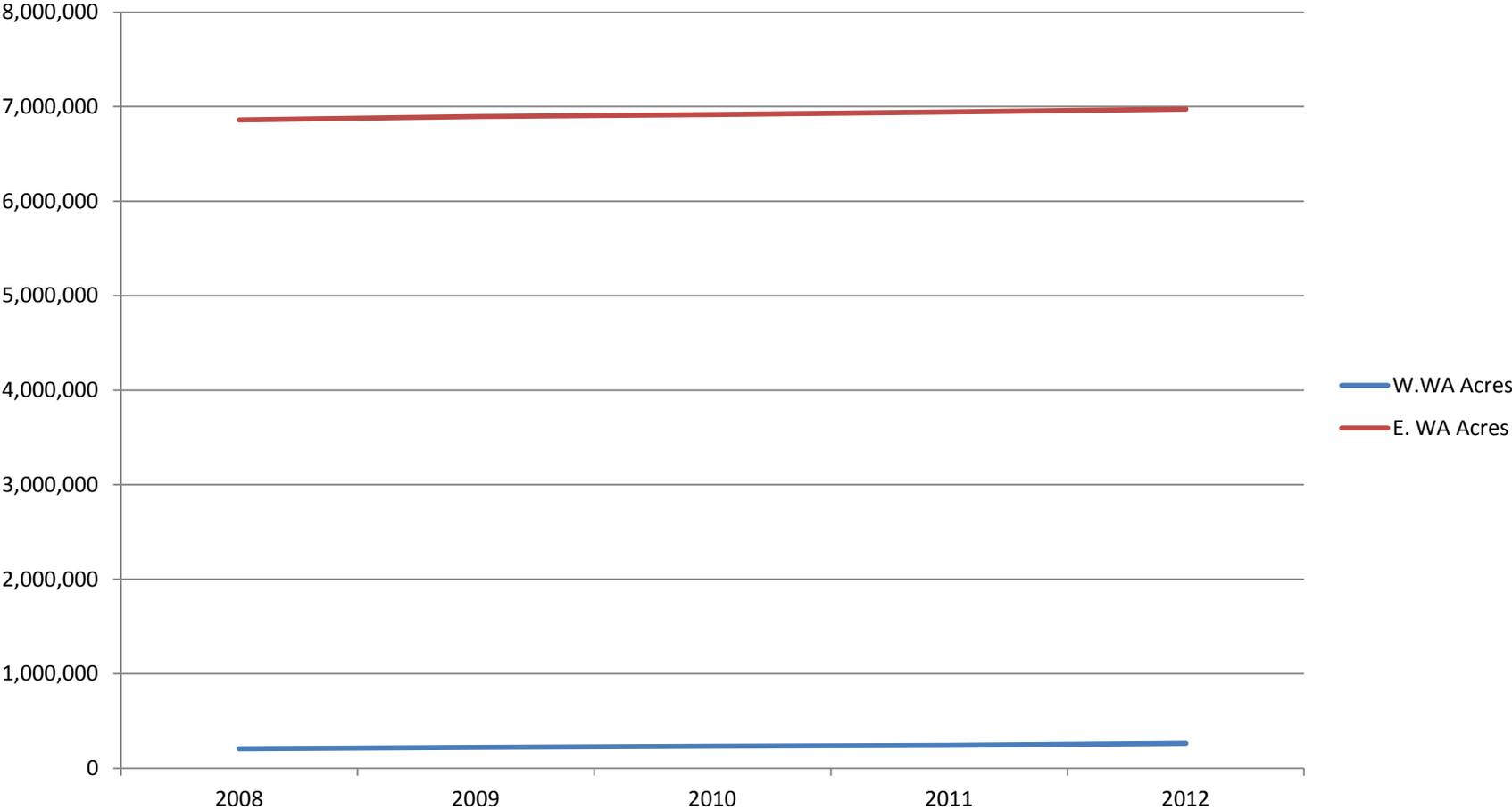
WA State – per WSDA Cropland* Data

*Data derived from WSDA crop geodatabase and includes cropland only; excludes developed land, pastures (grazing land), shellfish, golf courses, developed, open space, and scabland.

WSDA Cropland Acres



WSDA Cropland Data Comparison: Western WA vs Eastern WA



GMA Definition of Agricultural Land



365-190-030 Definitions.

(1) "Agricultural land" is land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax imposed by RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, finfish in upland hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production. These lands are referred to in this chapter as agricultural resource lands to distinguish between formally designated lands, and other lands used for agricultural purposes.





GMA Planning for Agriculture

Goals/ Requirements/ Tools/ Strategies



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GMA Goals



Agriculture

8. Natural Resource Industries

Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.

1. Urban Growth

Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.



GMA Requirements



RCW 36.70A.050 Commerce to write WAC on classifying and designating agricultural lands.

Ch. 365-190 WAC establishes minimum guidelines for classifying and designating agricultural lands (and other resource lands and critical areas.)

RCW 36.70A.170 Designate agricultural lands that are non-urban and of Long Term Commercial Significance.

RCW 36.70A.060 Adopt development regulations to conserve designated agricultural lands so that adjacent land uses do not interfere with agricultural production; plat notices are required within 500 feet of designated resource lands.



GMA Tools



RCW 36.70A.090 Comp. Plans should include Innovative Techniques: Cluster housing, density bonuses, planned unit developments, transfer of development rights, etc.

RCW 36.70A.160 Identify Open Space Corridors – can't restrict agricultural uses, unless property interest is obtained through donation or purchase; conservation futures funds may be used

RCW 36.70A.177 Innovative Zoning Techniques & Accessory Uses
Zoning: Agricultural, cluster, large lot, quarter/quarter, sliding scale
Accessory uses can be agricultural and non-agricultural (<1 acre)





GMA Strategies for Conserving Agricultural Lands

To maintain and enhance agricultural industries



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GMA Strategies Recommended



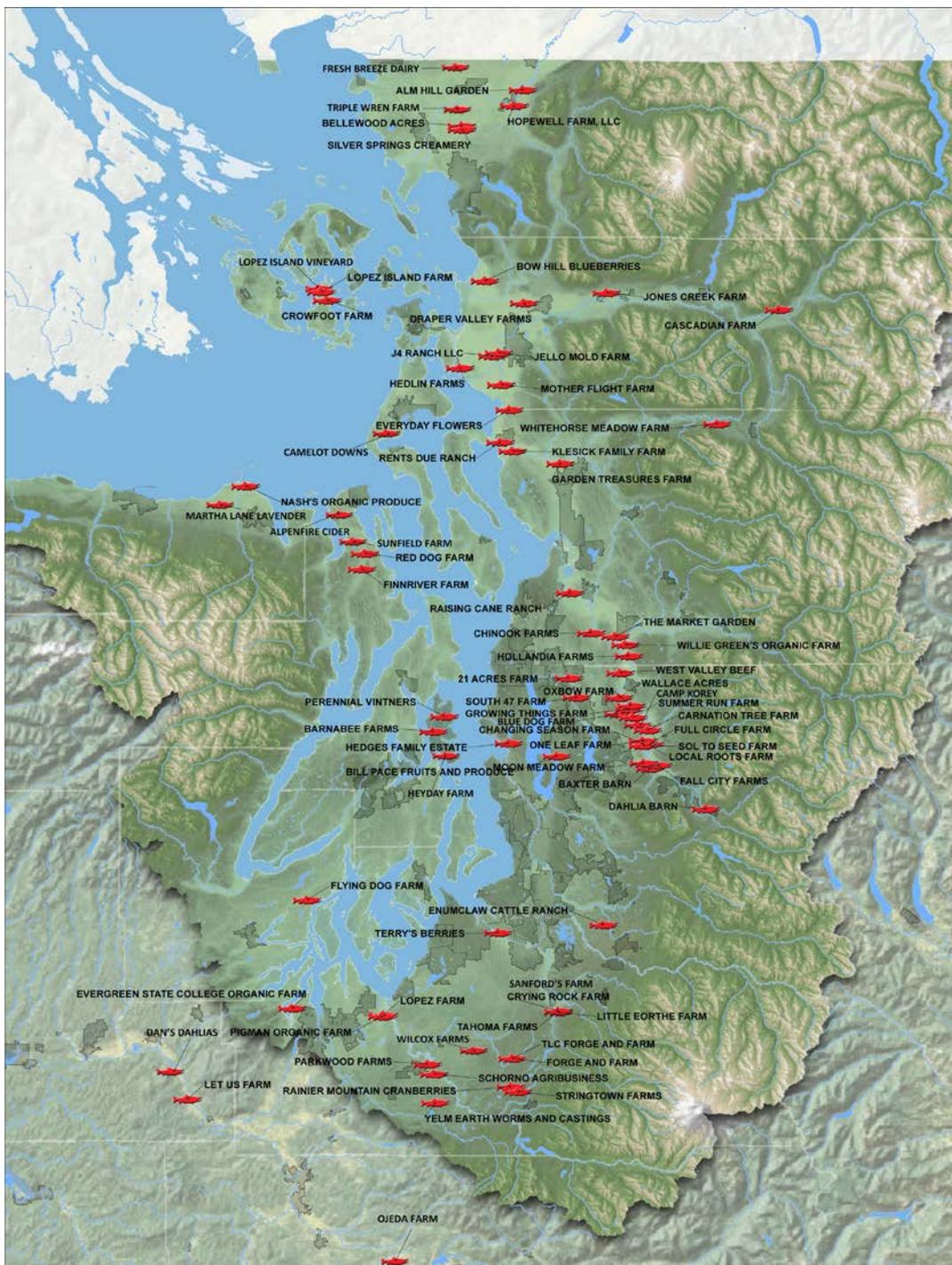
- Use land use regulations to conserve agricultural lands:
Large minimum lot sizes, with few allowable uses
Large contiguous zones of agricultural uses; transition/buffer zones to reduce use conflicts
- Use more PDR and TDR: can fund with Conservation Futures and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) sources
- Increase current use tax option & decrease barriers to entry
- Promote direct marketing opportunities: farm stands, U-pick, CSA, agritourism, institutional uses
- Consider using incubators for promoting farmers and enabling value-added production



Salmon Safe Farms in Puget Sound

Marketing agricultural products can get a boost from regional “Branding”. Salmon-Safe farm certification appeals to people’s desire to be a part of the solution, and not part of the problem. Stewardship Partners now manages this program in the Puget Sound area.

Salmon-Safe farm certification focuses on management practices in six primary areas: riparian area management, water use management, erosion and sediment control, integrated pest management, animal management, and biodiversity conservation.



GMA Strategies Recommended



Think BIG - as the need for retaining agricultural support industries spans multiple counties.

Build constituencies and be inclusive; provide public outreach and education on the benefits of keeping agriculture viable.

Recognize that agriculture is very diverse; the types of agriculture vary widely, but can be synergistic.



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GMA Strategies Recommended



Build on successful programs like Cascade Harvest Coalition's [FarmLink](#), and Jefferson County's WSU Coop Extension program Farmer Innovation Education and Leadership Development – [FIELD](#).

Share the resources of the Office of Farmland Preservation: OFP recently published a workbook on Farm Transfer Planning: Planning the Future of Your Farm available from the State Conservation Commission [website](#).



GMA Strategies Recommended



Entice people to live in Urban Growth Areas – to relieve some rural growth pressure we need more Transit Oriented Development, Mixed Uses, Affordable SSS Housing - for Students, Service workers & Seniors, cottage housing & urban amenities.





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