



Administrative Procedure

Subject/Title: CPAL – Animal Threshold Resource Priority

Number:

Effective Date:

Submitted By: Peter Gill

Reviewed By: **Natural Resources/Long Range Planning**

Approved By: **David Stalheim**

Statement:

This Administrative Procedure describes livestock operations that are deprioritized for farm conservation planning. This procedure applies to landowners that do not exceed the number of animals set forth below, have at least three grazeable acres, and manage their animals to avoid a direct discharge of sediment or fecal matter to surface waters.

- (1) Cow, or
- (1) Horse, or
- (2) Sheep or lamb, or
- (2) Alpacas, or
- (2) Non-breeding Pigs, or
- (2) Goats, or
- (20) Ducks or Geese, or
- (30) Chickens.

Rationale:

Experience implementing farm plans has shown that with very few animals the anticipated impacts to critical areas are so negligible that a farm plan may not be necessary to protect existing functions and conditions. If there is a direct discharge to surface waters, a farm plan is required regardless of the number of livestock on the property. Indicators of direct discharge can include devegetated riparian area, unfenced access to a stream, animal confinement area adjacent to surface waters. There is no multiplier for acreage, this is not an animal per acre threshold. Even if the animals are grazed on 100 acres, they are most often fed, sheltered, and cared for in one central location. Grazeable acres includes both pasture and hayland, as described in the Whatcom County Standard Farm Conservation Planning Workbook.

A land owner that does not have critical areas on their property does not require a farm plan. A property owner that keeps agricultural activities out of the **standard** Critical Area buffers does not require a farm plan.