

Some Things to Think About Regarding the Preservation of Your Farm Whatcom County PDR Program

1. Subdivisions - Once a conservation easement is granted, the number of new houses permitted on the property will be limited to the number reserved, if any, in the conservation easement.
2. Secondary Businesses - Once a farm is preserved, all uses directly associated to agriculture in are permitted. The general rule of thumb is that an accessory business must be incidental to the overall farm operation.

It is important to consider current and potential businesses on the farm. An example would be a farmer who also repairs equipment or has a small welding shop. If the farmer thinks this business might grow, he/she may want to keep some land out of the easement. The exclusion of land must be specified on the application form.

3. Farm Plan - In order to be eligible for Federal matching grant money, a farm must have and follow an approved Farm Plan. Contact the Whatcom Conservation District, if you do not have a Plan. The purpose of the Purchase of Development Rights Program is not only to preserve the farm, but also to preserve the soils that keep the farm productive.
4. Zoning - Only farms located in the Agriculture or Rural zone are eligible to participate in the PDR program at this time.
5. Urban Growth Areas (UGA) - Applications will not be accepted for farms located in the designated UGA.