Preserving Rural Character—Agritourism

Like many counties across the state, Thurston County is in the process of re-evaluating its Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). The process has given the community a new opportunity to comprehensively examine the CAO and discuss how it aligns with the county’s needs.

What is a Critical Area?
A Critical Area is a place that is essential to our health and safety; a place that delivers clean air, reduces flooding, ensures clean water, protects wildlife, and provides us leisure places.

Why are we re-evaluating the CAO?
The Thurston County Commissioners have instructed our planning staff to start looking at the CAO, and the CAO is up for review in 2012.

Are we changing the CAO?
No, a county does a CAO review every seven years to ensure it is up to date. The future of these species will critically area protections, and they will hold a public hearing to discuss the recommendations and address questions.

What are the implications?
Agricultural counties such as ours have been re-evaluating their CAO every seven years. This is the first time we will have the opportunity to do so, so it’s important to get involved.

One Closed Door Opens Another
Are you interested in having a position as a commissioner assistant?

Preserving Rural Character—Agritourism

Agritourism is becoming more and more popular across the state, especially in agricultural counties such as ours. This allows us to do more with our agricultural lands and our tourism industry.

Critical Areas Ordinance

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