

Thurston County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan

Appendix B – Definitions

Definitions below are derived from pertinent Growth Management Act (GMA) definitions ([RCW 36.70A.703](#)), Shoreline Management Act definitions ([RCW 90.58.065](#)), State Critical Area Guideline definitions (WAC 365-190-030), Thurston County Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) definitions ([Ch. 24 TCC](#)) and Thurston County Agricultural Activities CAO definitions ([Ch. 17.15 TCC](#)).

“ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT” means a systematic approach for improving management to meet goals and benchmarks of the Plan after learning of management outcomes.

“AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES” means all agricultural uses and practices as defined in RCW 90.58.065” (RCW 36.70A.703).

"Agricultural activities" means agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: Producing, breeding, or increasing agricultural products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie fallow in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land is subject to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands under production or cultivation;...

"Agricultural products" includes but is not limited to horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, vegetable, fruit, berry, grain, hops, hay, straw, turf, sod, seed, and apiary products; feed or forage for livestock; Christmas trees; hybrid cottonwood and similar hardwood trees grown as crops and harvested within twenty years of planting; and livestock including both the animals themselves and animal products including but not limited to meat, upland finfish, poultry and poultry products, and dairy products; ...

"Agricultural equipment" and **"agricultural facilities"** includes, but is not limited to: (i) The following used in agricultural operations: Equipment; machinery; constructed shelters, buildings, and ponds; fences; upland finfish rearing facilities; water diversion, withdrawal, conveyance, and use equipment and facilities including but not limited to pumps, pipes, tapes, canals, ditches, and drains; (ii) corridors and facilities for transporting personnel, livestock, and equipment to, from, and within agricultural lands; (iii) farm residences and associated equipment, lands, and facilities; and (iv) roadside stands and on-farm markets for marketing fruit or vegetables; ...

"Agricultural land" means those specific land areas on which agriculture activities are conducted.” RCW 90.58.065

“AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY” is the relationships and interactions among agricultural producers and those who buy and sell to them.

“AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY” is the ability of agriculture to 1) to maintain production, 2) to grow and expand production when necessary or desirable, and 3) to recover from declines in production. This definition rests on the principle that viable agriculture requires a healthy agricultural economy to support it and that producers must be able to enjoy a reasonable return on their investment of time and money.

The Workgroup through its Agricultural Viability Subcommittee has identified five elements that are essential for agricultural viability:

- Land

- Water
- Regulatory reform
- Infrastructure
- Market access

“AGRICULTURE” means use of a tract of land for the following:

1. The tilling of the soil;
2. The raising, harvesting and processing of crops or plant growth of any kind, including forestry;
3. Pasturage;
4. Horticulture;
5. Dairying;
6. Raising of poultry and livestock;
7. Shellfish or fish farming, including finfish in upland hatcheries; or
8. Raising, harvesting and processing of clams, oysters, and mussels.” TCC 17.15.200

“CRITICAL AREAS” include the following areas and ecosystems: (a) Wetlands; (b) areas with a critical and recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; (c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; (d) frequently flooded areas; and (e) geologically hazardous areas.” RCW 36.70A.030

“Critical aquifer recharge area” are areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, including areas where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of the water, or is susceptible to reduced recharge.” WAC 365-190-030

“Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas” are areas that serve a critical role in sustaining needed habitats and species for the functional integrity of the ecosystem, and which, if altered, may reduce the likelihood that the species will persist over the long term. These areas may include, but are not limited to, rare or vulnerable ecological systems, communities, and habitat or habitat elements including seasonal ranges, breeding habitat, winter range, and movement corridors; and areas with high relative population density or species richness. Counties and cities may also designate locally important habitats and species. "Habitats of local importance" designated as fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas include those areas found to be locally important by counties and cities. "Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas" does not include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches that lie within the boundaries of, and are maintained by, a port district or an irrigation district or company.” WAC 365-190-030

“Frequently flooded areas” are lands in the flood plain subject to at least a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year or areas within the highest known recorded flood elevation, or within areas subject to flooding due to high ground water. These areas include, but are not limited to, streams, rivers, lakes, coastal areas, wetlands, and areas where high groundwater forms ponds on the ground surface.” WAC 365-190-030

“Geologically hazardous areas” are areas that because of their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, are not suited to the siting of commercial, residential, or industrial development consistent with public health or safety concerns.” WAC 365-190-030

“Wetland” or “wetlands” means areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those artificial wetlands intentionally created from non-wetland sites, including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches, grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or highway. However, wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally created

from non-wetland areas to mitigate conversion of natural wetlands, if permitted by the county or city.”
WAC 365-190-030

“DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS” or “REGULATION” means the controls placed on development or land use activities by a county or city, including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, official controls, planned unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site plan ordinances together with any amendments thereto. A development regulation does not include a decision to approve a project permit application, as defined in RCW [36.70B.020](#), even though the decision may be expressed in a resolution or ordinance of the legislative body of the county or city.” RCW 36.70A.703

“ENHANCE” or “ENHANCEMENT” means to improve the processes, structure, and functions existing, as of July 22, 2011, of ecosystems and habitats associated with critical areas.” RCW 36.70A.703“

“FUNCTIONS AND VALUES” means “the beneficial roles served by critical areas including, but not limited to, water quality protection and enhancement; fish and wildlife habitat; food chain support; flood storage, conveyance and attenuation; groundwater recharge and discharge; erosion control; wave attenuation; protection from hazards; historical, archeological, and aesthetic value protection; educational opportunities; and recreation. These beneficial roles are not listed in order of priority. Critical area functions can be used to help set targets (species composition, structure, etc.) for managed areas, including mitigation sites.” Washington State Department of Commerce, Model Critical Areas Ordinance, *Appendix A—Example of Code Provisions for Designating and Protecting Critical Areas*. See also TCC 17.15.200

“IMPORTANT HABITAT AND SPECIES” means those state priority habitats and species and those local habitats and species recognized as such by this chapter. 17.15.200 TCC. Also see “fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.”

“NO NET LOSS” means, for purposes of the VSP that baseline critical area conditions (functions and values) are protected (no net loss from conditions existing, as of July 22, 2011) on a watershed basis on lands used for agricultural activities for each designated critical area type in each participating watershed. It may also encompass restoration activities to enhance ecological functions and ensure that conditions for each type of critical area in the watershed are maintained at baseline or better conditions.

“OAK HABITAT” means stands of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) or Oregon white oak/conifer associations where canopy coverage of the oak component of the stand is twenty-five percent or more; or where total canopy coverage of the stand is less than twenty-five percent, but oak accounts for at least fifty percent of the canopy coverage. The latter is often referred to as oak savanna. Oak habitat includes oak savannas and oak woodlands. 17.15.200 TCC

“PARTICIPATION” is the act of participating, or the state of being related to a larger whole. Participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program for agricultural operators includes direct participation in the development of an Individual Stewardship Plan (ISP) and/or implementation of conservation practices, which outside of an ISP would be considered indirect participation. Indirect participation in stewardship activities through agricultural operators implementing actions similar in nature and effect to standard conservation practices identified in ISPs and are implemented on the initiative of a producer without the use of a federal, state, county, or non-profit incentive program; and educational participation through attending events or meetings with natural resources / conservation assistance personnel to educate the interested public on the Voluntary Stewardship Program, discuss conservation practices and environmental needs, and encourage interested agricultural operators to develop an Individual Stewardship Plan.

“PRAIRIE” or “WESTSIDE PRAIRIE,” means herbaceous, non-forested (forested means greater than or equal to sixty percent forest canopy cover) plant communities that can either take the form of a dry prairie where soils are well-drained or a wet prairie. In parts of the Puget Trough, prairies can sometimes be recognized by mounded topography commonly referred to as Mima Mounds. Mima Mounds are a unique geologic feature of prairie habitat in Thurston County. 17.15.200 TCC

“PROTECT” or “PROTECTING” means to prevent the degradation of functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011.” RCW 36.70A.703

“PROTECTION AREA” means that area which surrounds and protects a critical area from adverse impacts to the functions and values of that area. TCC 17.15.200

“STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE” means a commission appointed committee consisting of two representatives from each of the following: county government, agricultural organizations, environmental organizations, and tribal governments (to be jointly invited to participate by the governor’s office and the commission).” RCW 36.70A.703

“STEWARDSHIP” is the activity of protecting critical area functions and values in areas with agricultural activities, while maintaining and enhancing the long-term viability of agricultural activities.

“TECHNICAL PANEL” means the directors or director designees of the following agencies: The department of fish and wildlife; the department of agriculture; the department of ecology; and the commission.” RCW 36.70A.703

“WATERSHED” means a water resource inventory area, salmon recovery planning area, or a sub-basin as determined by a county.” Thurston County’s resolution opting in to VSP defines “watershed” to mean “water resource inventory area.” RCW 36.70A.703

“WORK PLAN” means a watershed work plan developed under the provisions of RCW 36.70A.720