

Farm Management Plans Public Rule Update

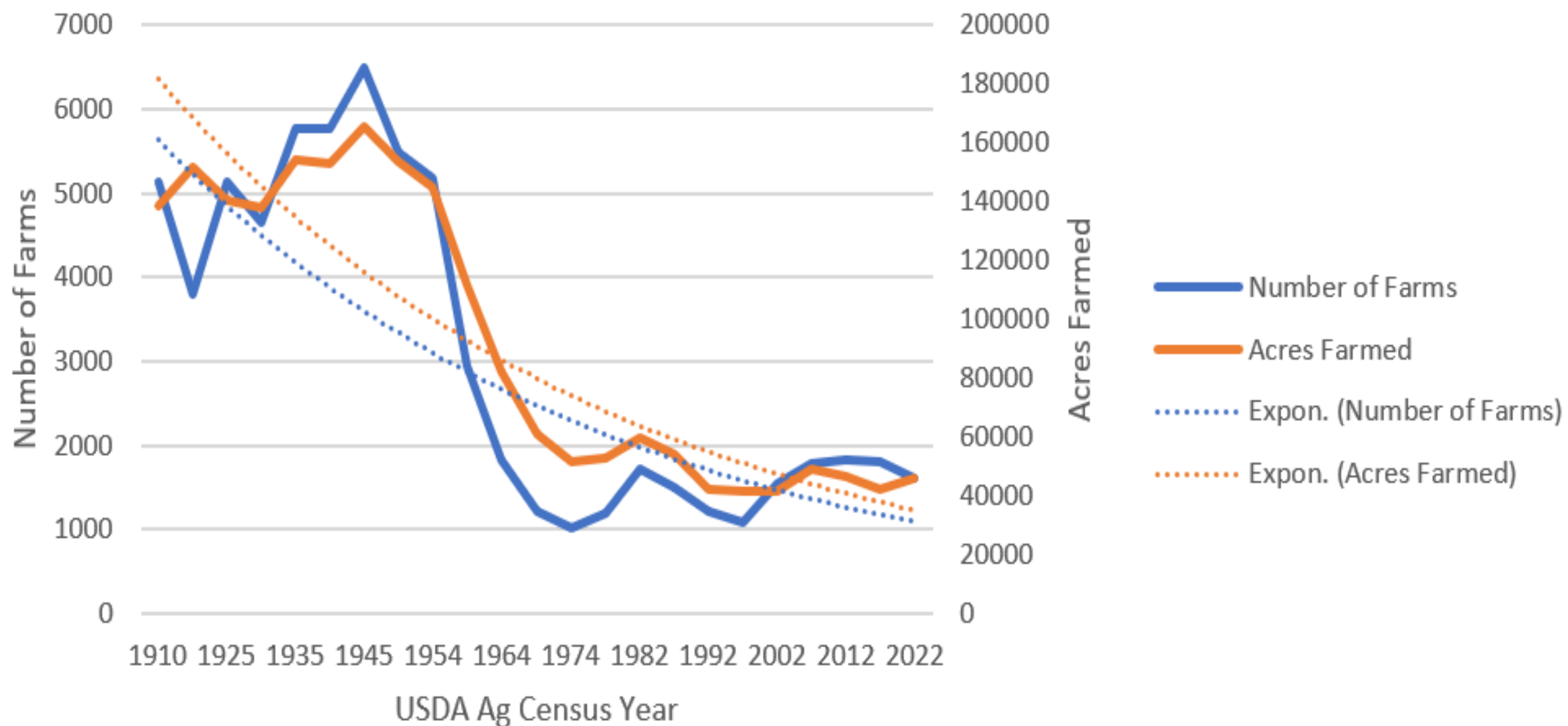


Landscape Context

- 42,643 Acres
- 55 Percent Within APDs
- Livestock Predominate
- 2,400 ac “Farmable but Unfarmed”
- Approximately 2,000 Farms
- Est. \$175 Million Annual Economic Impact



Number of Commercial Farms and Acres Farmed King County, WA (1910-2022)





Regulatory and Policy Framework for Agriculture Program

- Comprehensive Plan / GMA
- County Initiatives
- Code
- Ag Sector Plans
- Executive /Council Directives

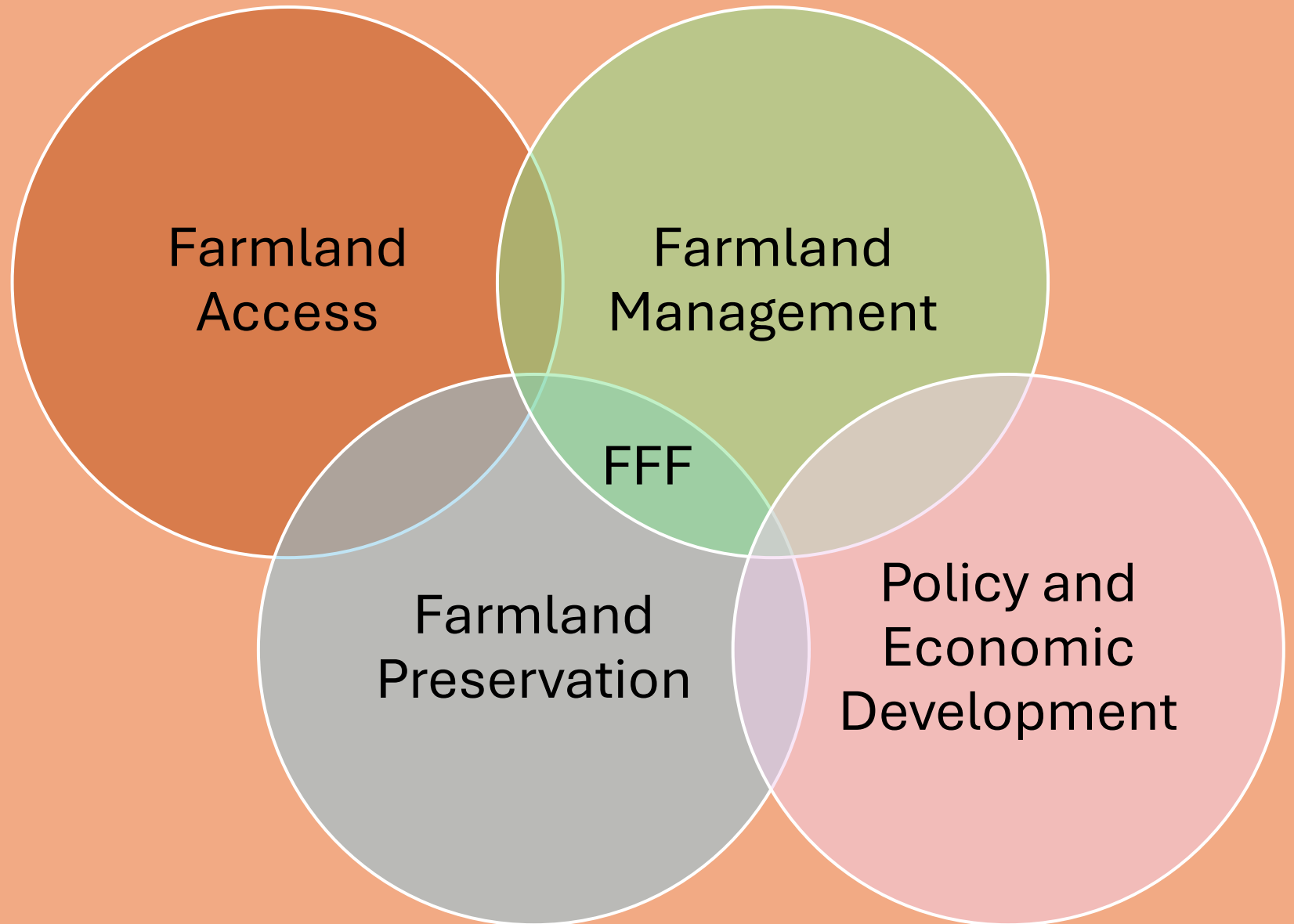


KC Agriculture Program Objectives

- Reduce Barriers to Farmland Access
- Protection of Remaining High-Quality Farmland
- Increase Farm Businesses Viability
- Enhance Farm Productivity, Environmental Sustainability, Climate Resiliency

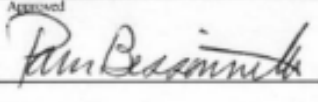
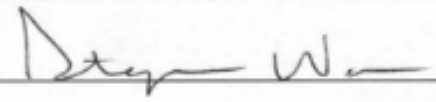


Fish Farm Flood



Farm Management Plans Public Rule (2005)



	King County Public Rules and Regulations	Public Rules
Title Farm Management Plans		Document Code No. PUT 8-21 (PR)
Department/Issuing Agency Department of Natural Resources and Parks Department of Development and Environmental Services		Effective Date February 24, 2005
Approved  1/25/2005  1/25/05		
1.0 FARM MANAGEMENT PLANS:		
1.1 EFFECTIVE DATE: February 24, 2005		
1.2 TYPE OF ACTION: New		
1.1 1.3 KEY WORDS: Agriculture, Farm Plan, Best Management Practice, BMP, Buffer, Clearing, Critical areas, Enhancement, Landowner, Protection, Residential, Restoration, Rural, Stewardship		
2.0 PURPOSE: The purpose of this administrative rule is to implement K.C.C. chapters 21A.24 (Critical Areas), 16.82 (Clearing and Grading), and 9.04 (Stormwater Management), by describing how landowners may obtain and use King Conservation District (KCD) approved Farm Management Plans to meet compliance as allowed by these codes. The intent is to protect		



Farm Management Plans Public Rule

- Identifies when approved farm management plans are required
- Describes process for development, review, approval, monitoring and enforcement of farm management plans
- Does not alter Comprehensive Plan policies or King County code
- Does not exempt landowners from most permits
- Emphasizes collaboration



Approved Farm Management Plan

- Continuation of normal agricultural practices
- Construction of residential and non-residential structures
- Construction/maintenance of farm field access drives
- Construction/maintenance farm pads
- Livestock bridges and crossings
- Variable width buffers
- Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program
- Public Benefit Rating System
- Farmland Preservation Program

Key 2025 CAO Updates

- Increased urban and rural riparian area widths
- Increased buffer widths and mitigation for wetlands
- Prohibits new clearing of established native vegetation in wetlands, wetland buffers, and riparian areas
- Relies on regulatory and nonregulatory measures to protect critical area functions and values
- Retention of code flexibility and tax incentives for development and implementation of Farm Management Plans and Best Management Practices.
- Distinguishes between existing commercial agriculture and hobby farms.





Initial Staff Revisions

- Expand Purpose; clear nexus to Critical Areas Ordinance and King County Code
- Clarify which farm management plans covered
- Identify required vs. recommended BMPs
- Expand requirements for plan content, review, and approval
- Clarify approach to mitigation
- Expand monitoring and enforcement protocols
- Emphasize collaborative approach to ensure implementation; enforcement action last resort
- Establish data management system



Pre-release Consultation

Ag Interests

- **King Conservation District, Snoqualmie Valleyh Preservation Alliance, Watershed Improvement District, Ag Commission, Farm Bureau, WSDA, NRCS**

Environmental Interests

- **KC Subject Matter Experts, WDFW, Ecology**

Tribes

- **Snoqualmie, Muckleshoot, Tulalip, Puyallup, Suquamish**



Council Ordinance 20024

- Requires consultation with Tribes
- Improve monitoring, reporting, and adaptive management
- DNRP shall maintain a publicly accessible inventory of Farm Management Plans
- DNRP and DLS shall monitor and evaluate effectiveness of Farm Management Plans
- Ensure consistency with CAO
- Adopted by December 31, 2026



Common Themes: agricultural interests

- Ensure confidentiality
- Identify when Approved Farm Management Plan is required
- Identify required Best Management Practices
- Clarify when a new farm plan is required
- Streamline the process
- Include opportunity for self-reporting plan implementation and effectiveness



Common Themes: Tribes, fish and habitat interests

- Align with Critical Areas Ordinance and Washington Administrative Code
- No net loss of critical area function and values
- NRCS Best Management Practices insufficient
- Require Critical Areas Determination
- Enhance approval, monitoring, and enforcement processes
- Report regularly on program effectiveness



Next Steps

Aug 2026: incorporate comments into draft update

Sep 2026: KC leadership review of proposed update

Oct 2026: release for formal public and Tribal review

Dec 2026: incorporate comments into revised draft

Jan 2027: DNRP, DLS, EO approval of revised update

Mar 2027: effective date of rule revision

Apr 2027: adjust staff work plans to meet requirements

Note: parallel process for SEPA