

PIERCE

Pierce County FARM Board

Resource Challenge

Pierce County farmland is disappearing under development pressure from nearby urban areas.

Project Summary

The Pierce Conservation District worked with a bipartisan group of local elected officials to create the Farming Assistance, Revitalization, and Marketing (FARM) Board, a cooperative panel including representatives of the District, WSU Extension, Pierce County Economic Development, and Pierce County Planning and Land Services, as well as a number of local row crop farmers. The FARM Board was tasked with carrying out the recommendations of the Pierce County Agricultural Economic Development Strategy, which was developed jointly by the County and Pierce Conservation District.

Project Results

Project activities resulting from the Economic Development Strategy included the hiring of an ombudsman for agricultural landowners; first steps to creation of a local non-profit food policy council; and new marketing activities to boost sales of local produce.

Innovation/Highlight

This project was awarded a VISION 20/20 award by the Puget Sound Regional Council

FEATURE ACCOMPLISHMENT

More Information

Contact

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Key Partners Involved

Pierce County Council
Pierce County Economic Development
Pierce County Planning and Land Services
WSU Extension
King/Pierce Farm Bureau
Local large acreage row crop farmers

Pierce CD

Board of Supervisors

Ernie Bay, Chair
Paul Nee, Vice Chair
Dave Seabrook, Auditor
Rose Ehart, Member
Ron Sasaki, Member

Funding for Featured Project

County & Other Local	\$ 178,000
District	\$ 120,000
Total	\$ 298,000

Preserving Farmland and Farmers

Pierce County Agriculture Strategic Plan

SUMMARY REPORT



Prepared for:

Pierce County, Washington
Economic Development Division

By:

Barney & Worth, Inc.
Globalwise, Inc.

OTHER DISTRICT INFORMATION

Background

The Pierce Conservation District serves the majority of Pierce County which encompasses 4,679 acres and includes over 700,000 residents, Mount Rainier, Fort Lewis, and McChord AFB.

Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the renewable natural resources of Pierce County.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals

- Assist in the retention of high quality Puyallup Soils- no loss of acres farmed within the Puyallup Valley Rural Farm zone.
- Assist in prevention of shellfish harvest restrictions- no new shellfish harvest downgrades where fecal coliform from livestock is a primary issue.
- Assist in the prevention of riparian habitat destruction along South Prairie Creek- 20 acres/year permanently protected along stream.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals

- To lead urban and rural residents toward actions that protect and enhance renewable natural resources.
- To increase Tahoma View newsletter circulation by 10% per year.

Critical Geographic Areas

- Nisqually River: assist the Nisqually Tribe in enhancing Chinook producing reaches of the Nisqually River.
- Puyallup Valley: protect remaining high quality farm soils by assisting local farm businesses.
- South Prairie Creek: assist the Puyallup Tribe in protection of the Puyallup River's most productive salmon stream.
- Tacoma Metropolitan Area: increase urban communities' awareness of the importance of natural resource conservation.



6 acres near Tacoma will be farmed in perpetuity.

Natural Resources Information: More Work to Do

- Puyallup Valley farmland: some of the most productive soils in the county, directly in the path of urban development- Critical Condition.
- South Prairie Creek: top salmon producing reach of the Puyallup River- Improving.
- South Puget Sound shellfish beds: under threat of increasing fecal coliform loads from “hobby” livestock owners- Stable, but needs increased attention.

