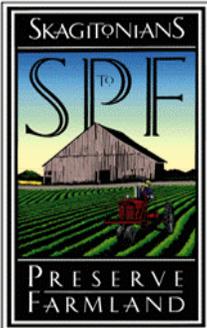


SKAGITONIAN

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******* SPECIAL EDITION *******



www.skagitonians.org

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SKAGITONIANS ^{DO} ~~TO~~ PRESERVE FARMLAND!

Just a few weeks ago, a concerted effort expended over the last three years has culminated in the permanent protection of 111 acres of prime farmland south of Mount Vernon!

The property is located inside SPF's #1 Priority Area for permanent protection, the nearly seven miles of farmland fronting I-5 within the State's only Agricultural Scenic Corridor.

It is the last such length of farmland still in existence along I-5 anywhere in the Puget Sound region and, due to SPF's efforts with the Washington State Legislature it has been recognized for its singular contribution to the economy, ecology and beauty of Puget Sound.

The newly protected property, owned by Wylie, Inc., is located just south of the SE freeway interchange at Conway along the eastside of the freeway frontage Cedardale Road, south of State Route 534.



Photo Credit: Matt Brown

The two development rights extinguished on the Wylie, Inc. property were assessed at \$355,000. The cost of buying those rights and placing the permanent agricultural easements on the 111 acres was divided between the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office with a \$134,600 grant, with the remaining \$220,400 shared equally—\$110,200 each—between Skagit County's Farmland Legacy Program and SPF.

SPF donors laid the foundation for this project in 2013 with donor-designated contributions at our Harvest Dinner & Auction, totaling \$32,600. To complete the deal, the Osberg Family Foundation matched that contribution at a rate of nearly 2½-to-1, with a gift of \$77,600 for a total investment of \$110,200 from SPF.

(Cont'd on Back)



Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
PO Box 2405
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

**Thank you for your support in
PROTECTING FARMLAND in the Skagit Valley!**



(Cont'd from Front)

The latest achievement is proof we're staying the course.

This latest property brings the total farmland protected in the I-5 Corridor alone to over **465 acres**. The SPF Board of Directors identified this area as one of their highest priorities in 2008. Since then, more than \$1.5 million has been invested in this corridor by various public agencies and the dedicated membership of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland to protect this farmland in perpetuity. Of the \$1.5 million raised, SPF donors have contributed a total of \$699,200. **THANK YOU!!**

The mission is far from over.

While SPF has successfully partnered with Skagit County's Farmland Legacy Program to leverage public and private donor dollars to protect farmland along Interstate 5, the area remains under threat. A major part of SPF's mission is advocacy in promoting that prime farmland be protected and maintained as farmland. I-5 through the Puget Sound region is testimony to the effect of converting farmland to other, non-farming uses; uses which, by their nature, do not inherently require placement on prime agricultural land. The latest example is farmland being converted at Island Crossing near Arlington. The loss of prime farmland to these other uses cannot be reversed. Scenic vistas are exchanged for sterile strips of fill and pavement and the truly daunting thought is, that once lost, farmland—prime, fertile, precious farmland—cannot be replaced.

It's all in our name.

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland has made a significant investment in time, money and community goodwill to keep true to its name and mission. We are here to do all we can to not lose this outstanding resource and it is YOU, our like-minded members, who have made every past success and every future goal something worth fighting for. **THANK YOU!**

Coming Soon...

Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program have already begun working on our next project: nearly 400 acres north of Burlington. Stay tuned for more good news to come!

Thank you for your support of Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland!!

If you have any questions, or would like more information about this project or upcoming projects, please contact us at the SPF Office at 360-336-3974 or via email at AllenR@skagitonians.org