

**SNOQUALMIE VALLEY  
AGRICULTURAL  
STRATEGIC PLAN**

Public Review Draft, May 2023

SVAPD Agriculture Task Force

# Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Land Resource Strategic Plan Overview

## Abstract

The SVAPD Agriculture Task Force, made up of farmers and industry professionals in the commercial farm sector drafted the plan over four years to elevate the land resource needs for farmers in the SVAPD, policy makers and service providers alike, to understand the agriculture needs based on facts, implement the solutions, and gain the results needed in the next 25 years. From drainage to climate change to farmland preservation, this plan has 17 short issue papers and 283 strategies to achieve the desired condition for each issue.

Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force

King County Agriculture Commission Meeting

5.11.23

# Overview includes



About the Plan



Task Force



Goals and Issue  
papers



Review Process  
and Timeline



# Origin & Task Force



This plan's scope of work was created by Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF), but it is also a **stand-alone agricultural plan** to guide support for agricultural needs in the Snoqualmie Valley Agriculture Production District (SVAPD) over the next 25 years.



In March 2019, the Agriculture Task Force was formed and convened by King County Agriculture Staff. The task force worked on the problems facing the commercial farming sector in the SVAPD in managing the agriculture land resource for farming productivity.

## Ag Strategic Plan Task Force

**10**  
MEMBERS

Farmers and industry professionals in the commercial farm sector.

Beginning in 2019, taking a break in 2020 after Covid, and then resuming full tilt via Zoom.

**04**  
YEARS TO  
COMPLETE  
PLAN

**1,750**  
MEETING  
HOURS

Staff and Volunteer Hours +175 hours/person

Farmers, Local NGOs, Special Districts, Policy Advisors, WSU

**07**  
REPRESENTED  
ENTITIES

**169**  
PAGES

Including issue papers and appendices

# The Task Force Composition



The task force brings experience from farmers and industry professionals in the commercial farm sector:



farmer organizations: SnoValley Tilth and Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance,



agency agriculture policy advisors: King County Agriculture Commission,



special purpose districts: Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District and King Conservation District,



educational institutions: Washington State University Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources,



and the FFF Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC).

# Task Force Members

Members	Affiliation
<a href="#">Patrice Barrentine, Coordinator</a>	King County Water & Land Resources Division (KC WLRD)
Janet Keller, Jordan Jobe, Carrie King	King County Agriculture Commission
Andrew Stout, Erin Ericson	Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID)
Janet Keller, Lauren Silver	Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA)
Libby Reed, Dave Glenn	SnoValley Tilth
Bobbi Lindemulder	Fish, Farm, Flood Oversight Committee
Carrie King	King Conservation District
Jordan Jobe	WSU CSANR, Puyallup Research Center



**improve the long-term productivity of farmland**



**bring more acres into production, especially food production,**



**increase opportunities for farmers to develop the necessary infrastructure to support or increase their farm businesses**



**proposed acreage needs for long-term, viable sector**

# Purpose



assessment of specific farmland resource property needs and assets in the SVAPD



create an implementation plan for project improvements to land (e.g., drainage) and water access

## Method

# 8 Key Values and Themes



**Key values and themes incorporated into the plan highlight the lens through which the task force has developed goals and objectives including:**

1. responsible stewardship/sustainable farming,
2. flood and climate change preparedness,
3. equity and social justice,
4. multi-benefit projects,
5. innovative thinking,
6. regulatory certainty,
7. resource investments, and
8. alignment with related plans and programs.

# Appendix E

Table E: Issue Papers by Organization/Agency Strategic Plans, Missions, Programs

	King County Strategic Plans										Organization/Agency Strategic Plans, Missions, Programs									
	Comprehensive Plan & NEKC	Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan	Farm, Fish, Flood 1.0	Flood Hazard Management Plan	Land Conservation Initiative	Local Food Initiative	Strategic Climate Action Plan	Beavers NW	King Conservation District	King County Agriculture Commission	Snohomish Conservation District's Agriculture Resiliency Plan	Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA)	Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) / Wetness Prioritization Plan	SnoValley Tith						
<b>A1. Profile of the Commercial Agriculture Sector</b>	x	x				x			x			x	x							
<b>1. Improved Farmland Productivity</b>																				
<b>1.1 Drainage</b>																				
1.1.1 Drainage Maintenance for ADAP Eligible Waterways			x			x			x	x			x							
1.1.2 Drain Tiles			x						x	x			x							
1.1.3 Flap gates, Floodgates, and Pumps			x							x			x							
1.1.4 Culverts			x						x	x			x							
1.1.5 Drainage Maintenance for non-ADAP Waterways									x	x			x							
1.1.6 Beavers			x					x		x			x							x
<b>1.2 Flood Safety</b>																				
1.2.7 High Ground Refuge and Farm Pads			x	x					x	x			x	x	x					
1.2.8 Home Preservation in the APD	x	x	x			x				x			x							
<b>1.3 Irrigation</b>																				
1.3.9 Water Rights and Irrigation	x								x	x			x	x	x					
<b>1.4 Transportation</b>																				
1.4.10 Revetments			x																	
1.4.11 Transportation Corridors and Bridges										x			x	x						
<b>1.5 Climate Change</b>																				
1.5.12 Climate Change Predictions	x					x			x	x	x	x	x							
1.5.13 Invasive Species									x	x										
<b>2. Increased Farmland Protections</b>																				
<b>2.1 Population Growth and Development Impacts</b>																				
2.1.14 Population Pressure	x									x			x							x
<b>2.2 Wildlife</b>																				
1.1.6 Beavers			x					x		x			x							x
2.2.15 Elk and Deer								x	x	x										
<b>2.3 Farmland Preservation</b>																				
2.3.16 Farmland Preservation	x	x		x	x				x	x	x	x	x	x						x
<b>2.4 Proposed acreage for a long-term, viable sector</b>																				
2.4.17 Acreage Challenges, Needs and Recommendation	x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x			x	x						

The plan has important links to and works to support other plans, programs, organizations, and agencies including:

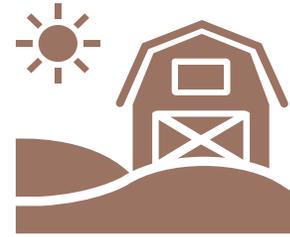
- King County Plans
  - Comprehensive Plan and NEKC
  - Farm Fish Flood 1.0
  - Flood Hazard Management Plan
  - Local Food Initiative
  - Land Conservation Initiative
  - Strategic Climate Action Plan
- King Conservation District
- Snohomish Conservation District Ag Resiliency Plan
- SVWID

# 9 Sub-Goals



## Improve Farmland Productivity

1. Drainage
2. Transportation (revetments, roads and bridges)
3. Irrigation
4. High ground, home elevation
5. Climate change



## Increase Farmland Protections

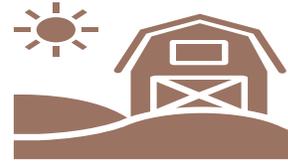
6. Development and Population Growth
7. Wildlife
8. Farmland Preservation
9. Proposed acreage needs for long-term, viable sector

# 17 Issue Papers



## Improve Farmland Productivity

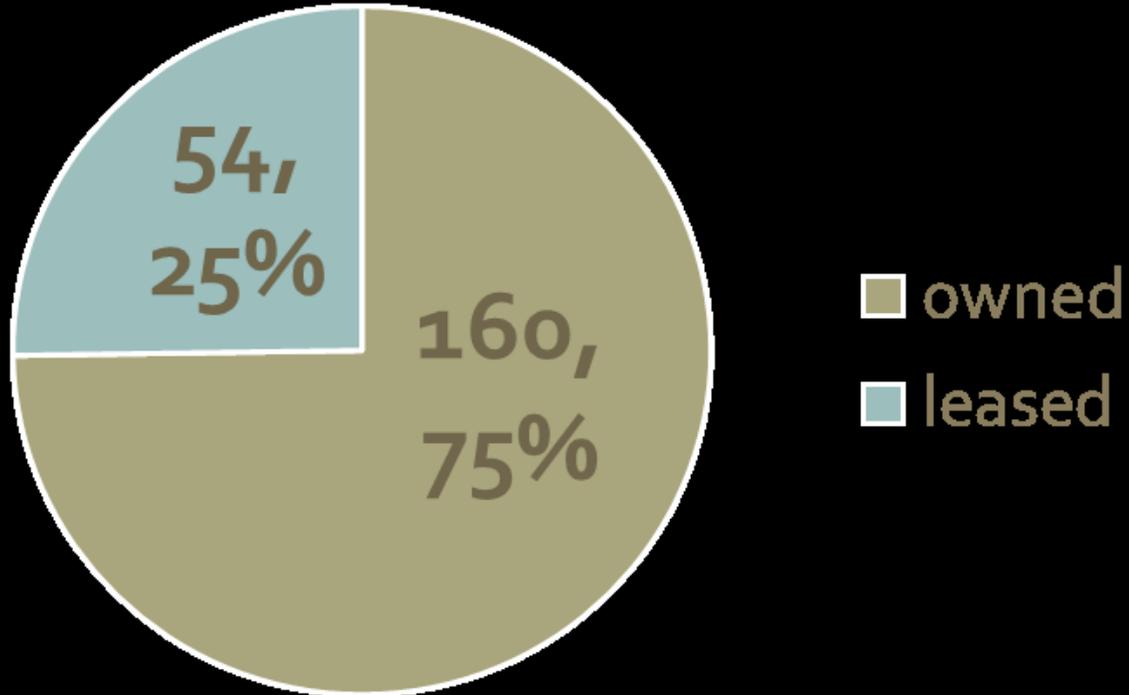
- A. Introduction and Profile of the Commercial Agriculture Sector in the SVAPD
  - 1. Waterway Maintenance – ADAP eligible
  - 2. Agricultural Drainage Tiles
  - 3. Flap/Flood Control Gates and Pumps
  - 4. Culverts
  - 5. Waterway Maintenance – non-ADAP eligible
  - 6. Beavers
  - 7. Farm Pads and High Ground Refuge
  - 8. Home Preservation
  - 9. Water Rights and Irrigation
  - 10. Revetments
  - 11. Transportation
  - 12. Invasive Species
  - 13. Climate change



## Increase Farmland Protections

- 14. Population Pressure
- 15. Elk and Deer
- 16. Farmland Preservation
- 17. Acreage

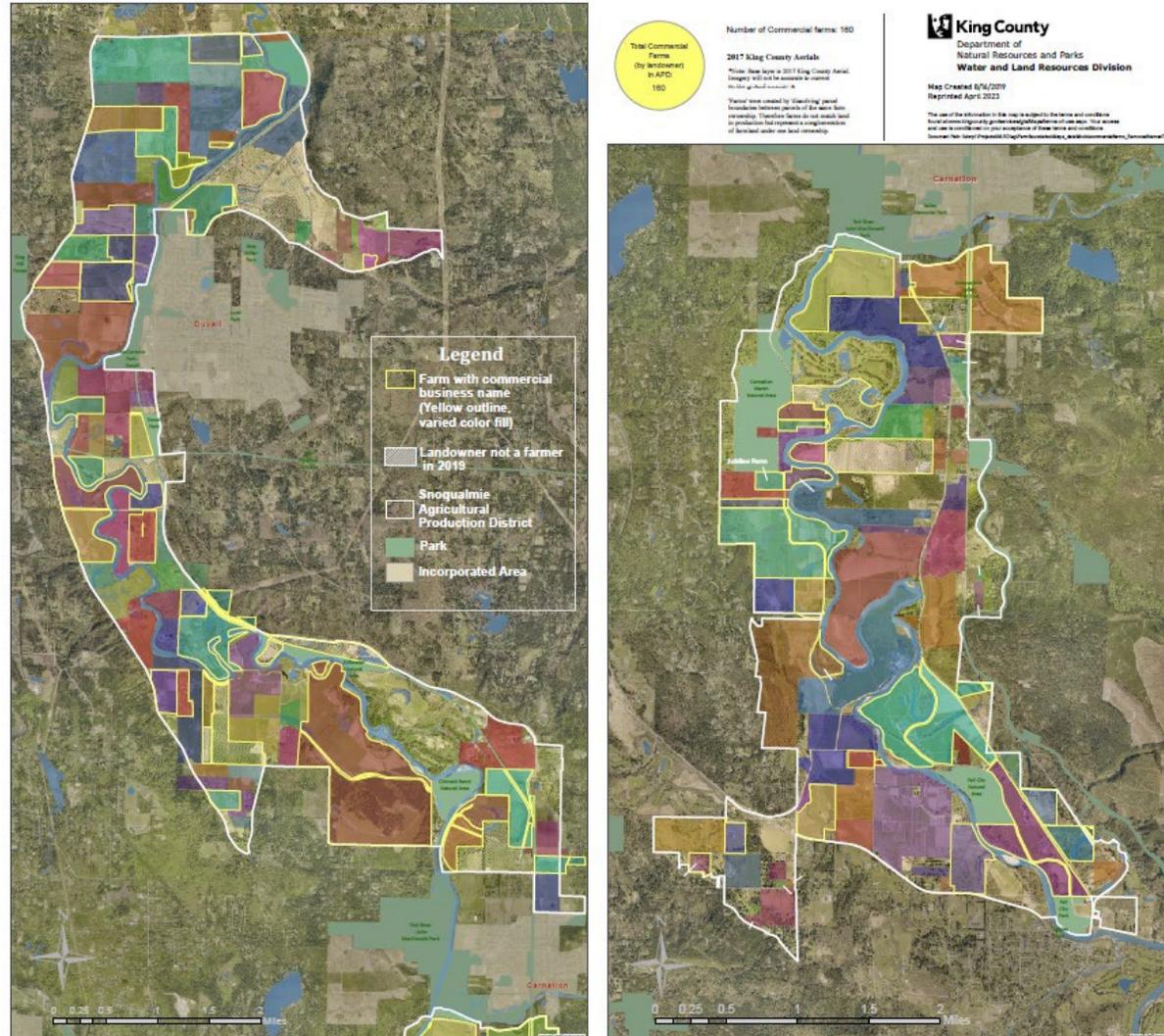
# 214 Commercial FARMS in SVAPD



Exciting  
Information  
and  
Precedents

# Operations Grouped by Landowner

## Snoqualmie Valley Commercial Farms 2019

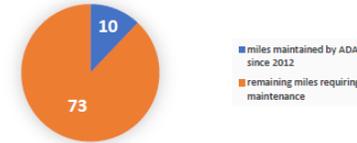


Exciting  
Information  
and  
Precedents



# Format for Issue Papers

## Sample

1.1.1: Drainage Maintenance for ADAP Eligible Waterways		
Current Condition	Desired Condition by 2048	
<p>Figure 2. ADAP Eligible Waterway Maintenance: Snoqualmie Valley APD</p>  <p>There are 83 miles of King County's Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP)<sup>1</sup> eligible waterways in the SVAPD. Each year, approximately 10,000 feet (~2 miles) of agricultural waterways are maintained in the Snoqualmie Valley, which equates to about 2% of all eligible waterways and a return interval of about 45 years. At the current rate of 2 miles each year it would take approximately 37 years to complete waterway maintenance on the remaining 73 miles of waterways in the SVAPD that have not been maintained recently.</p> <p>Costs for agricultural waterway dredging can vary based on complexity of the project. As of 2018, projects cost about \$50 per linear foot from the planning through the monitoring stages, meaning that initial dredging of the remaining 73 miles of the 83 miles of eligible waterways would cost roughly \$19,272,000 (in current dollars). On average, 71% of these costs are covered by King County, 18% by King Conservation District or the SVWID, and 10% by landowners.</p>	<p>All eligible waterways are maintained, on recurring schedule, with alternative mitigation options available.</p>	
	Timeline	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024: Funding increased; additional ADAP crews added; timeline of dredging projects developed (starting with landowner requests in priority sub-basins); recurring maintenance interval for individual waterways is determined by evaluation criteria and scheduled for ongoing maintenance</li> <li>2026: Alternative mitigation scenarios are tested, approved, and added to ADAP agreement</li> <li>2034: Initial maintenance of remaining 73 miles completed</li> <li>2035: Recurring maintenance continues per schedule and/or emergency needs</li> </ul>	
Background	Service Providers	Priority
<p>Agricultural waterways direct water out of agricultural fields into larger waterways and streams. Over time, these waterways can fill with sediment and become blocked by overgrown weeds, slowing, or stopping the movement of water and leading to poorly drained fields.</p> <p>ADAP works under a memorandum of understanding with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) that incorporates best management practices (BMPs) to protect fish and water quality<sup>2</sup>. Through ADAP, landowners only need a single permit to conduct maintenance which can include dredging, beaver dam management, and culvert replacement. Currently, ADAP is the only permitted program for agricultural waterway maintenance in the Snoqualmie Valley. ADAP is limited to working on drainage improvements in artificial drainage channels and relatively small, modified waterways<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p>Lead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King County Stormwater Services Program: ADAP</li> </ul> <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SV Watershed Improvement District</li> <li>King Conservation District</li> </ul>	High
Strategies		

The issue papers break out:

- the *current condition* of the issue through available data or original research,
- *background* information on the issue,
- the *desired condition* to achieve by 2048,
- as well as *strategies* to achieve that condition and
- a *timeline* to do so, and list the
- *service providers* to accomplish the work, and
- a designated *priority* to accomplish the work.

## Ag Strategic Plan ADAP

**83**

MILES OF ADAP  
ELIGIBLE  
WATERWAYS

to increase the \$ &  
pace to maintain 73  
miles in next 10 years

over 10 years to  
complete ADAP in  
today's dollars

**\$19.2**  
MILLION  
NEEDED: ADAP

**10,000**  
LINEAR FEET

Average ADAP  
accomplished/  
year in SVAPD

funding needed  
from King  
County, SWWID,  
KCD and grants

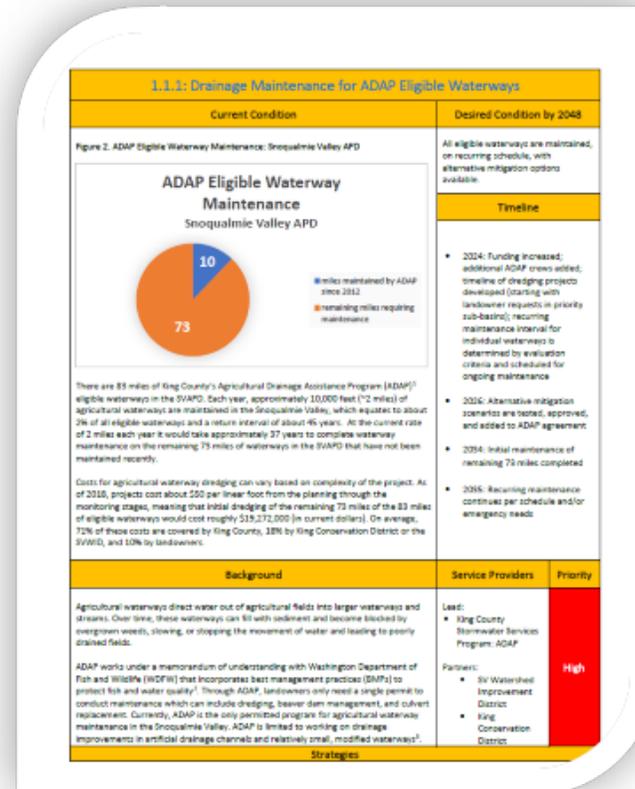
**\$2**  
MILLION / YEAR

**3-4**

FOLD INCREASE

rate to increase  
ADAP in SVAPDs

# ADAP by the #s





## Ag Strategic Plan Elk and Deer

**\$12,500**

MEAN ANNUAL  
LOSS FROM ELK  
ON FARMS

Elk damage on farms  
in the SVAPD is nearly  
3x's greater than deer  
damage

Crop loss on SVAPD  
farms equates to 4+  
days of a farmer's sales  
at our highest selling  
County Farmers Markets

**\$4,500**

MEAN ANNUAL  
LOSS FROM DEER  
ON FARMS

**\$5-10M**

ANNUAL CROP  
LOSS KING  
COUNTY

by extrapolating  
County reporting #'s,  
the breadth of  
financial loss becomes  
clearly significant

Game Management  
Area 460, essentially  
covers the area between  
Interstate 90 and  
Highway 2, east of the  
Snoqualmie River

**750**

ESTIMATED # OF  
ELK IN REGION

**\$\$**

OPTIONS TO  
REDUCE  
PREDATION

Inexpensive options to  
control crop losses to  
deer and elk are limited.  
Both species can be  
effectively excluded by  
constructing sturdy  
fences around the farmed  
areas

# Elk and Deer by the #s



# How can you help us?

Review the Plan



Submit your input now - June 5



Help us Spread the Word about the Plan and Events



Incorporate the Plan into your Work

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/tSzw6xb4LHCHS3F29>

# SNOQUALMIE VALLEY AGRICULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN

Public Review Draft, May 2023

SVAPD Agriculture Task Force

## Questions?

**May 22, 5-7pm**

Snoqualmie River Farm hosted by SnoValley Tilt and Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA)

Join the Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force for a hands-on open house using stations on the farm to demonstrate the plan's facts and strategies and gather your input.

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/tSzw6xb4LHCHS3F29>

Short url: <https://kingcounty.gov/AgPlan>

Contact: Task Force Coordinator  
[Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Patrice.Barrentine@kingcounty.gov)