

WHATCOM COUNTY

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Mark Personius
Director

Memorandum

Date: April 26, 2024
TO: Council Planning & Development Committee
FROM: Dakota Stranik, Planner II
THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director
RE: Presentation on Conservation Program on Agricultural Lands (CPAL)

On May 7th, 2024 I will be presenting to the Planning & Development Committee on the Conservation Program on Agricultural Lands (CPAL). This program is implemented through Whatcom County Planning and Development as a subsection of the Critical Areas Ordinance and pertains specifically to ongoing agricultural activities occurring within Critical Areas and their buffers. The purpose of this presentation is to provide a clear picture of Whatcom County's current approach to Critical Area regulations related to agriculture. Understanding the current approach will help inform any future considerations of alternatives such as the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).

The CPAL program utilizes Farm Plans to guide landowner management of Critical Areas and buffers used for agriculture. Whatcom Conservation District will also be presenting on how they work with landowners to develop Farm Plans and identify Best Management Practices (BMPs).