



Conservation Easement Program Update

Whatcom County Council
Natural Resources Committee
February 8, 2022

Presentation Agenda



- ▶ Program Overview
- ▶ Recent and Pending Acquisitions
- ▶ Program Summary
- ▶ Review Ranked Applicant List
- ▶ Review Proposed Resolution to:
 - Confirm ranking
 - Proceed with acquisition of four easements

Program Overview





Recent Acquisitions

- ▶ Martin Agricultural Conservation Easement
 - Removed 1 DR, Protects 54 Acres
- ▶ Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement
 - Removed 2 DR, Protects 56 Acres
- ▶ Kiera-Duffy Ecological Conservation Easement
 - Removed 2 DR, Protects 57 Acres

Pending Acquisitions



- ▶ Jones Agricultural Conservation Easement
 - Remove 8 DR, Protect 47 Acres
 - Easement Cost: \$290,000
 - Match Funding: WA Recreation & Conservation Office

- ▶ Vanderwerff Agricultural Conservation Easement
 - Remove 3 DR, Protect 20 Acres
 - Easement Cost: \$200,000
 - Match Funding: WA Recreation & Conservation Office & USDA

Program Summary



33 Conservation
Easements

184 Development
Rights Removed

1,668 Acres
Protected

53% Easement Cost
Covered by Grants

Ranked Applicant List

February 2022

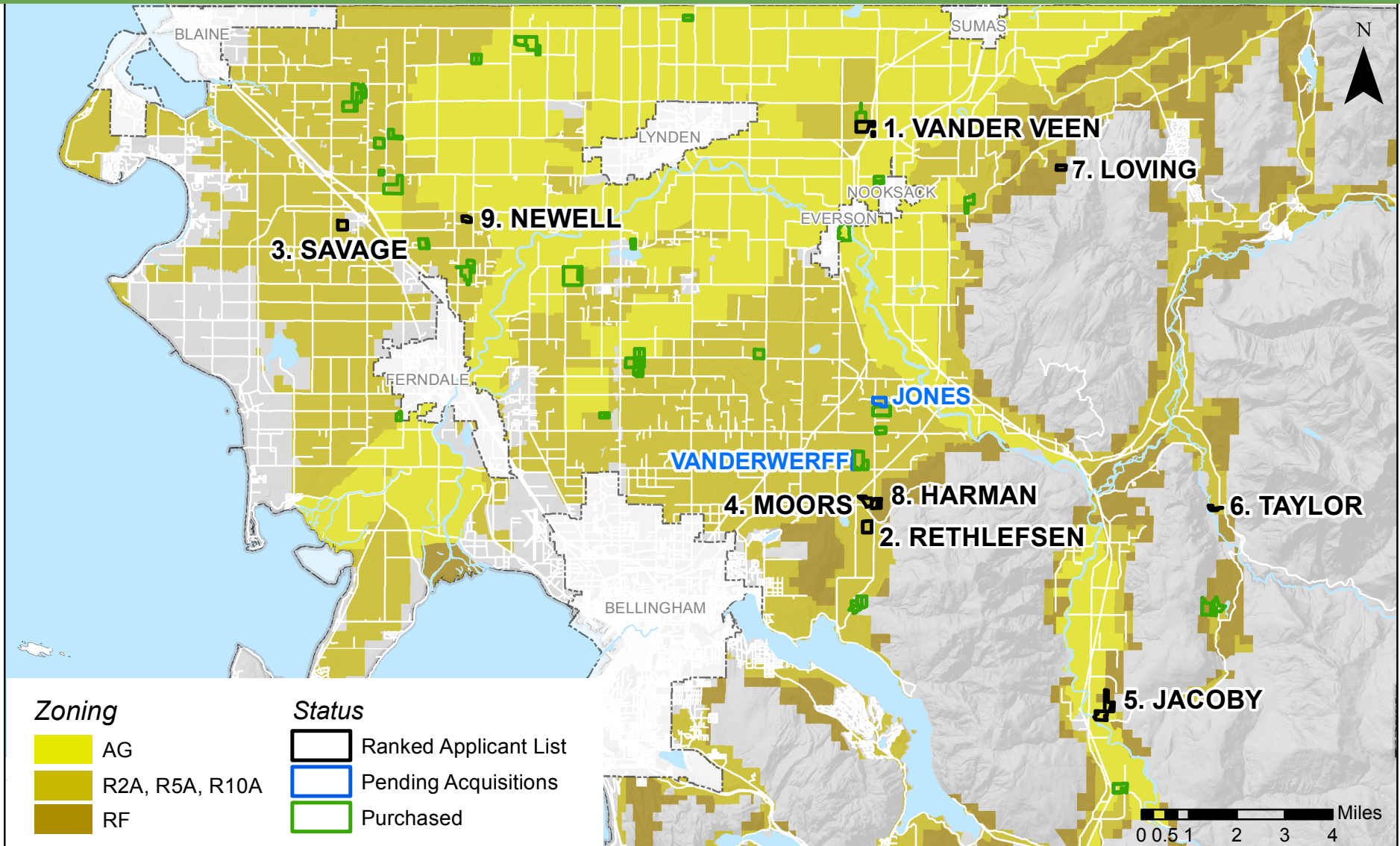


Rank	Applicant	Type	Acres	# of DRs	Zone	Final Score	Estimated Cost	Cost per DR	Cost per Acre	50% Match Funding	50% Match Funding
1	VanderVeen	Agricultural	57	5	R10	73	\$180,000	\$36,000	\$3,158	Federal Funds Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
2	Rethlefsen	Agricultural	49	9	R5	71	\$395,000	\$43,889	\$8,084	State Funds Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
3	Savage	Agricultural	40	3	R10	63	\$170,000	\$56,667	\$4,250	Federal Funds Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
4	Moors	Forestry	36	7	R5	60	\$250,000	\$35,714	\$6,944	State Funds Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
5	Jacoby	Agricultural	100	2	AG, RF	79	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$2,999	None Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
6	Taylor	Ecological	15	1	R5	66	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$6,667	None Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
7	Loving	Ecological	20	1	RF	50	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$3,750	None Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
8	Harman	Ecological	40	7	R5	46	\$250,000	\$35,714	\$6,194	None Secured	Conservation Futures Fund
9	Newell	Ecological	20	3	R5	45	\$100,000	\$33,333	\$4,950	None Secured	Conservation Futures Fund

Request to Purchase

CEP Applicant Map

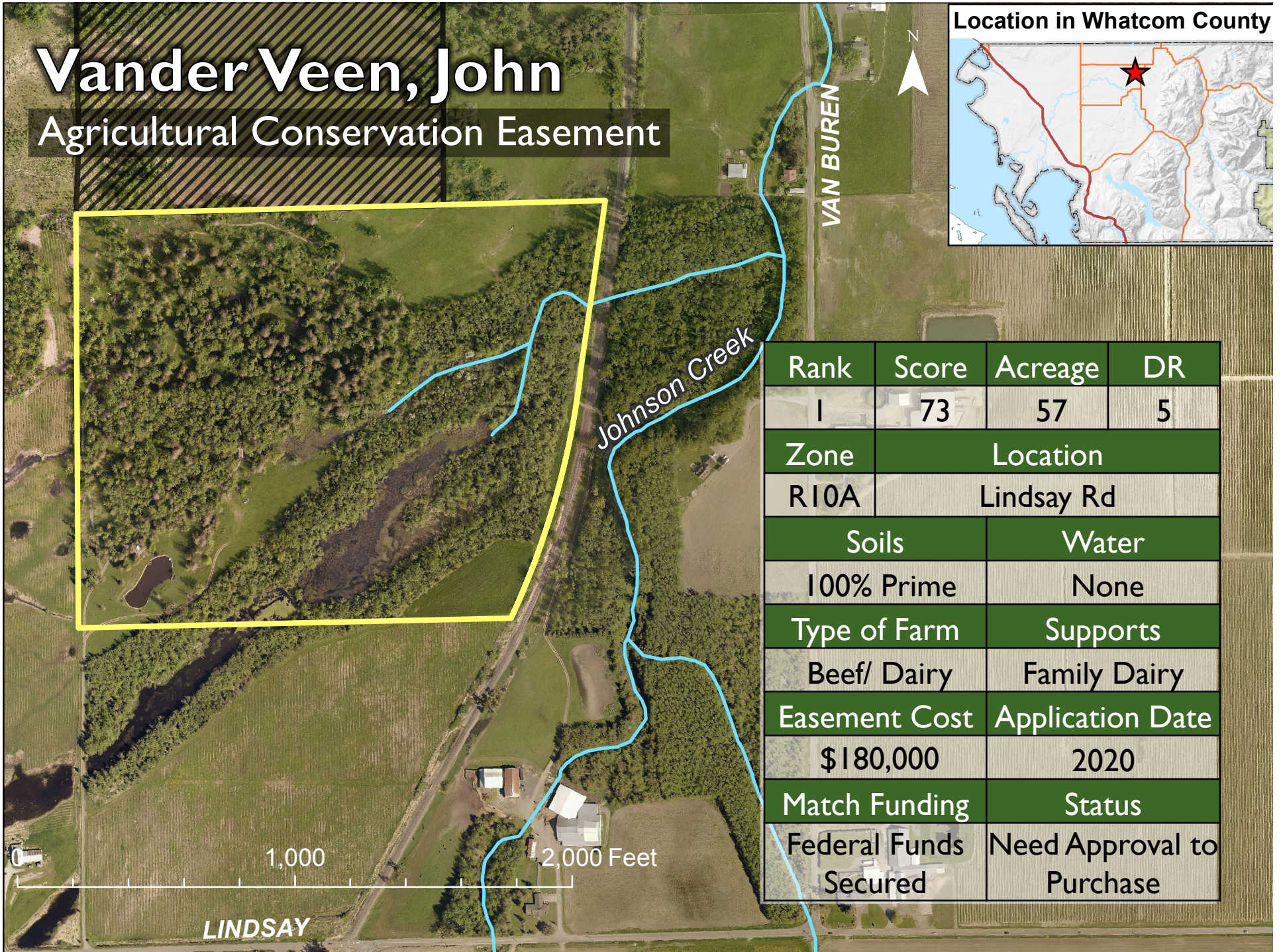
February 2022



Vander Veen, John

Agricultural Conservation Easement

Location in Whatcom County

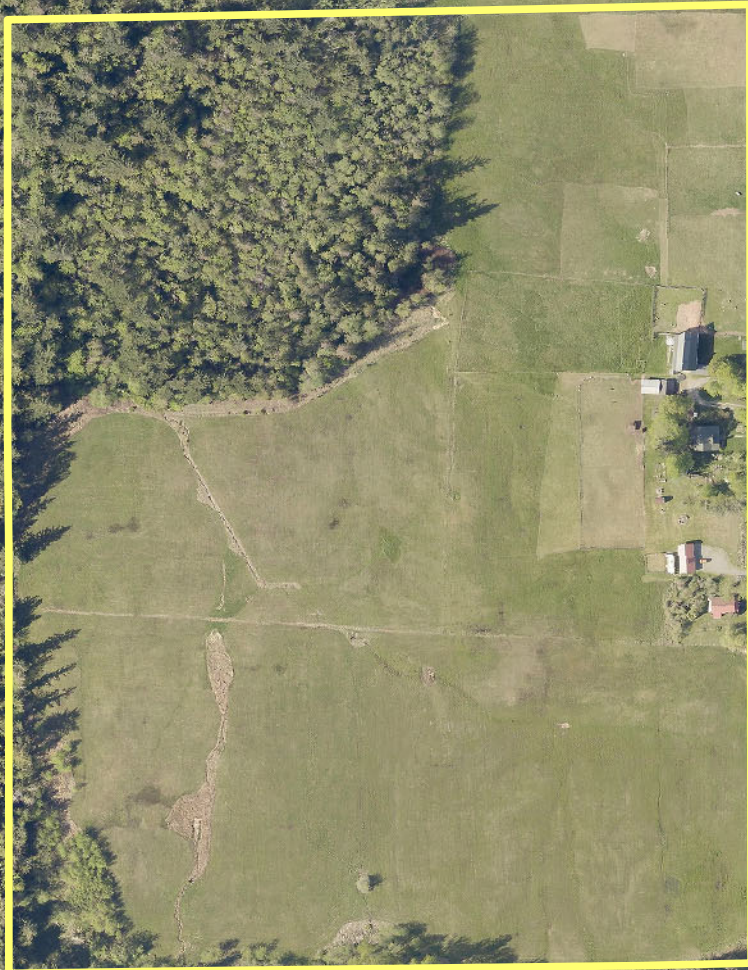
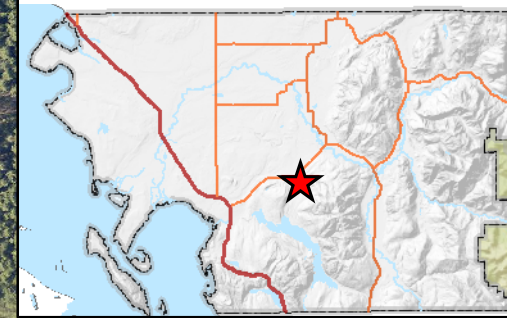


Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
I	73	57	5
Zone	Location		
R10A	Lindsay Rd		
Soils		Water	
100% Prime		None	
Type of Farm		Supports	
Beef/ Dairy		Family Dairy	
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$180,000		2020	
Match Funding		Status	
Federal Funds Secured		Need Approval to Purchase	

Rethlefsen, Darlene

Agricultural Conservation Easement

Location in Whatcom County



Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
2	71	49	9
Zone	Location		
R5A	Y Rd		
Soils		Water	
100% Prime		Claim	
Type of Farm		Supports	
Sheep/ Hay		Lydia's Flock	
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$395,000		2019	
Match Funding		Status	
State Funds Secured		Need Approval to Purchase	

Anderson Creek

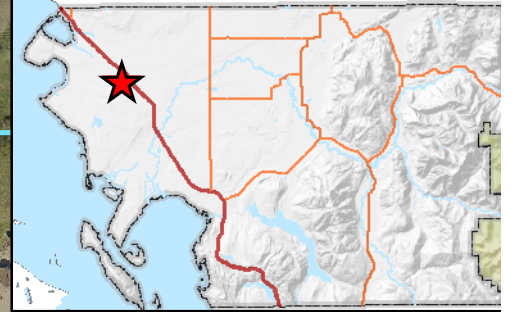
Y RD

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Savage, Michele

Agricultural Conservation Easement

Location in Whatcom County



MAIN

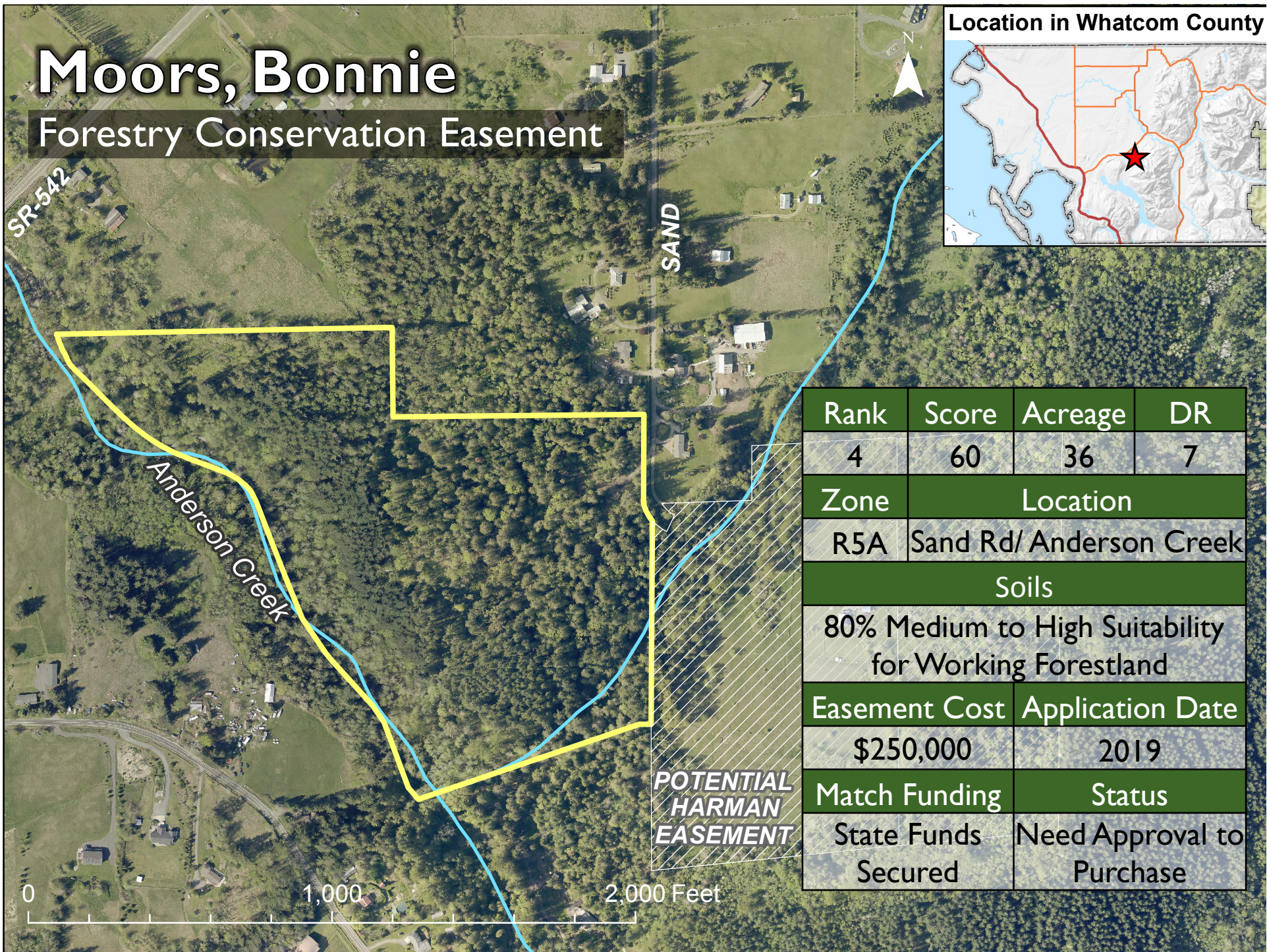
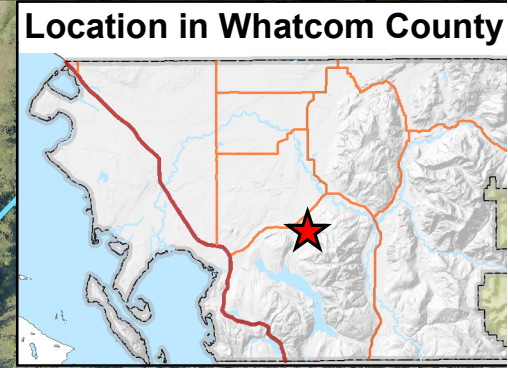
California Creek

Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
3	63	40	3
Zone	Location		
R10A	Custer/ California Creek		
Soils		Water	
100% Prime		Claim	
Type of Farm		Supports	
Sheep/Goats		Family Farm	
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$170,000		2020	
Match Funding		Status	
Federal Funds Secured		Need Approval to Purchase	

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Moors, Bonnie

Forestry Conservation Easement



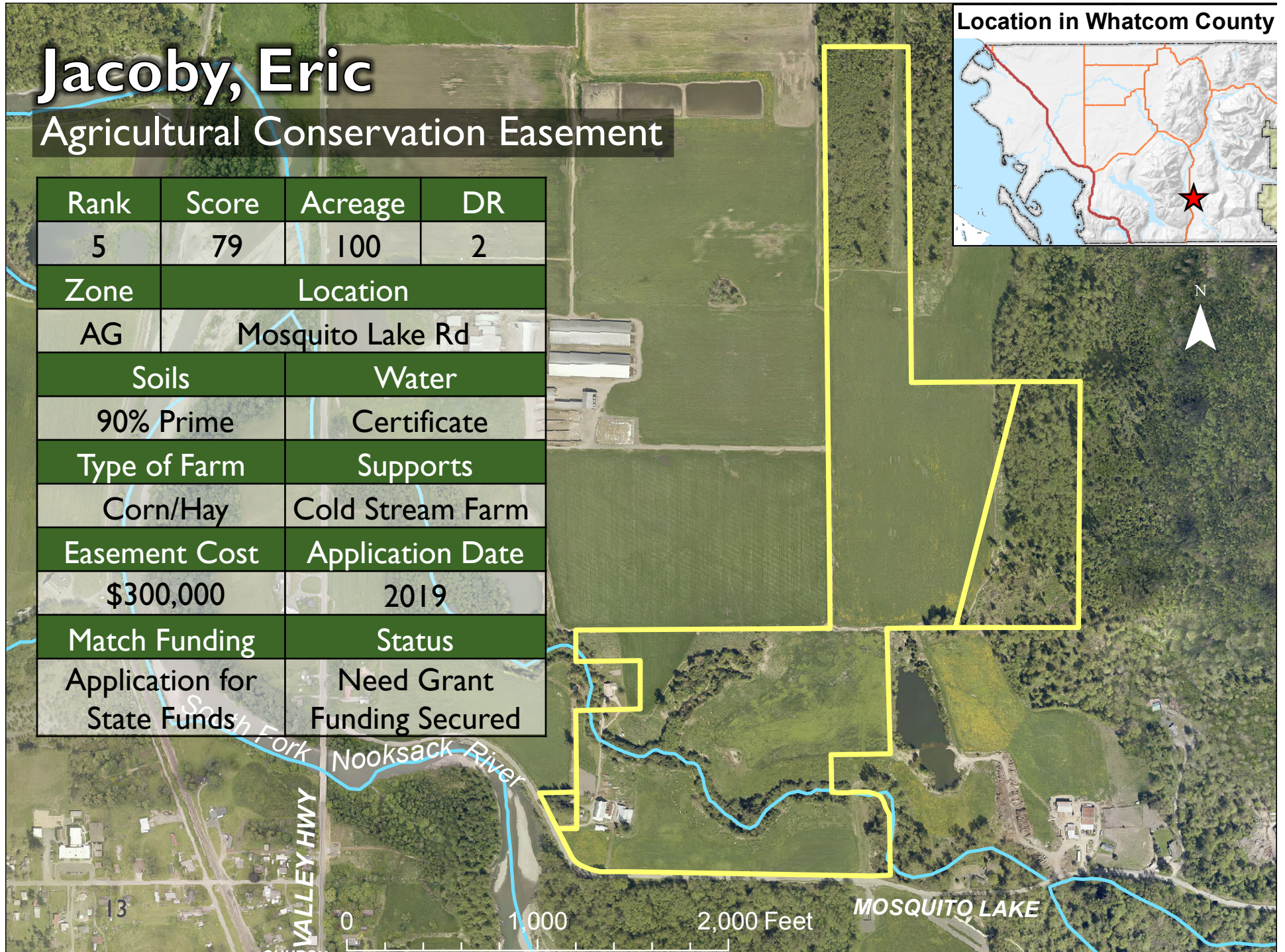
Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
4	60	36	7
Zone	Location		
R5A	Sand Rd/ Anderson Creek		
Soils			
80% Medium to High Suitability for Working Forestland			
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$250,000		2019	
Match Funding		Status	
State Funds Secured		Need Approval to Purchase	

Jacoby, Eric

Agricultural Conservation Easement

Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
5	79	100	2
Zone	Location		
AG	Mosquito Lake Rd		
Soils		Water	
90% Prime		Certificate	
Type of Farm	Supports		
Corn/Hay	Cold Stream Farm		
Easement Cost	Application Date		
\$300,000	2019		
Match Funding	Status		
Application for State Funds	Need Grant Funding Secured		

Location in Whatcom County



13

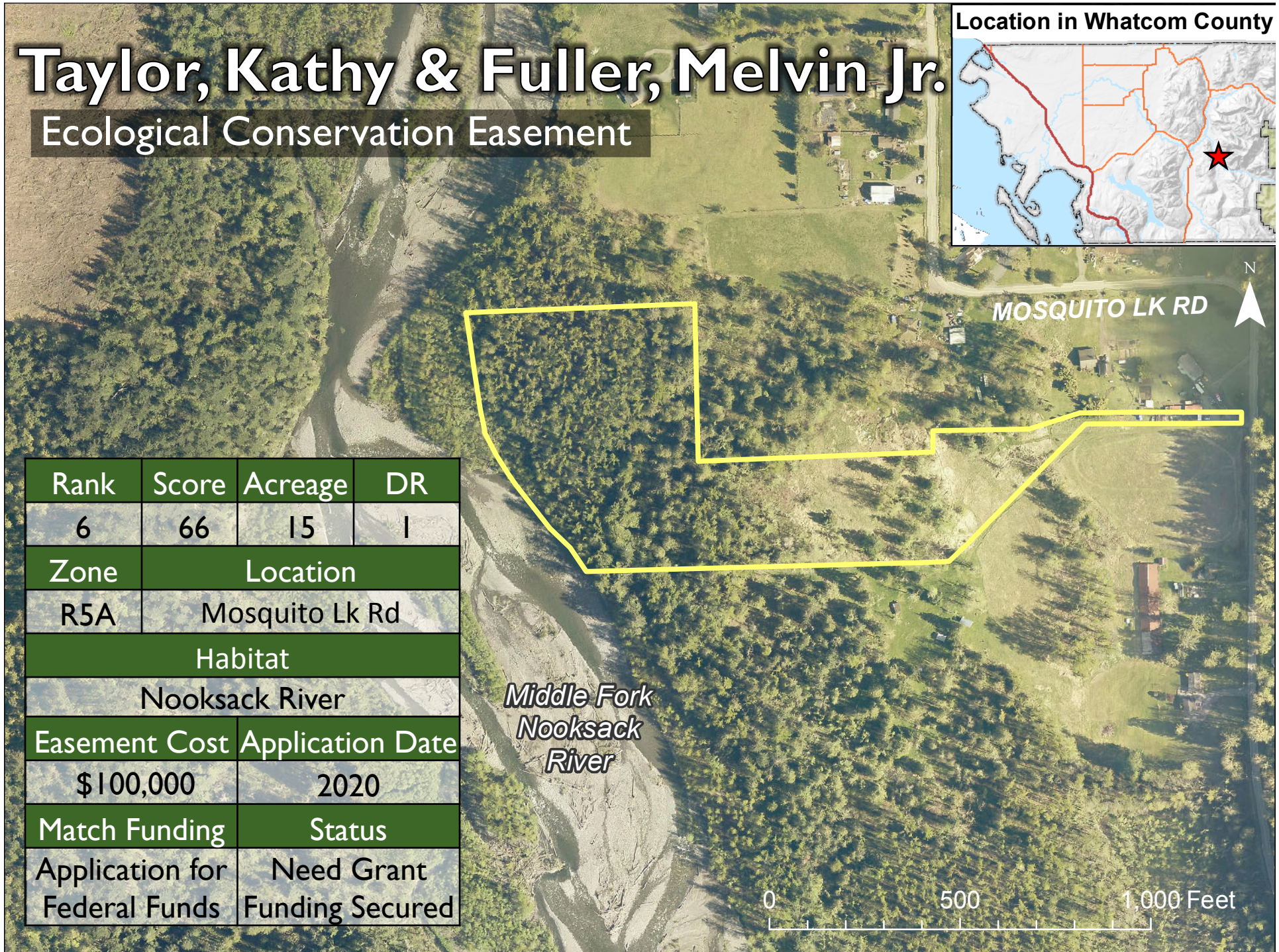
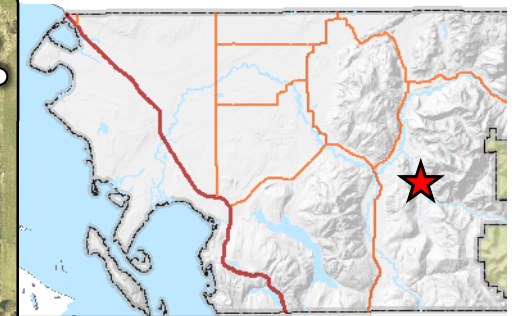
0 1,000 2,000 Feet

MOSQUITO LAKE

Taylor, Kathy & Fuller, Melvin Jr.

Ecological Conservation Easement

Location in Whatcom County



Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
6	66	15	1
Zone	Location		
R5A	Mosquito Lk Rd		
Habitat			
Nooksack River			
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$100,000		2020	
Match Funding		Status	
Application for Federal Funds		Need Grant Funding Secured	

Loving, Gary

Ecological Conservation Easement

Location in Whatcom County



DNR Land



To South Pass Rd



Breckenridge Creek
Tributary

Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
7	50	20	I
Zone	Location		
RF	South Pass Rd		
Habitat			
Riparian forestland			
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$75,000		2021	
Match Funding		Status	
Application for Federal Funds		Need Grant Funding Secured	



0 500 1,000 Feet

Harman, Jan & Patrick

Ecological Conservation Easement



POTENTIAL
MOORS
EASEMENT

SAND RD

Tributary to Anderson Creek

0 500 1,000 Feet

Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
8	46	40	7
Zone	Location		
R5A	Sand Rd		
Habitat			
Anderson Creek			
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$250,000		2020	
Match Funding		Status	
Application for Federal Funds		Need Grant Funding Secured	

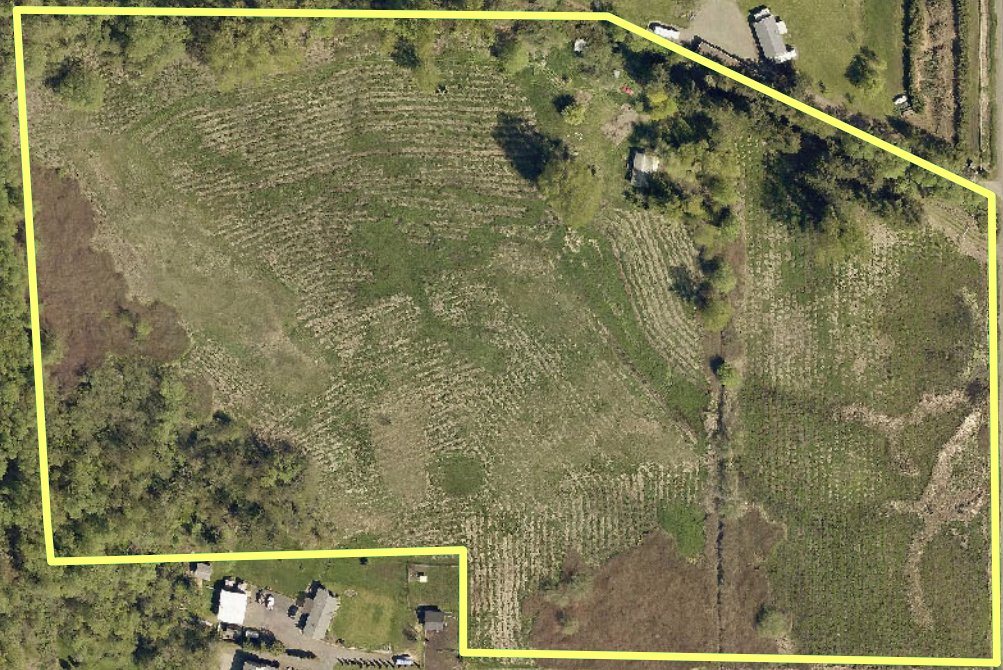
Newell, Brad

Ecological Conservation Easement

Location in Whatcom County



Rank	Score	Acreage	DR
9	45	20	3
Zone	Location		
R5A	Enterprise Rd		
Habitat			
Wetlands enrolled in CREP			
Easement Cost		Application Date	
\$100,000		2017	
Match Funding		Status	
Application for Private Funds		Need Grant Funding Secured	



ENTERPRISE RD

0 500 1,000 Feet

Request



▶ AB2022-071

▶ Affirm CEP Oversight Committee Ranking

- Proceed with Acquisition of a Conservation Easement On:

1. Vander Veen	\$180,000	57 ac
2. Rethlefsen	\$395,000	49 ac
3. Savage	\$170,000	40 ac
4. Moors	\$250,000	36 ac
Total		\$995,000 182 ac
Total After Grant Reimbursement		\$497,500 (\$2,733/ac)

CFF Balance as of 12/31/2021 ~\$2,300,000

Thank you!



Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program



Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee

Chair: Paul Schissler

Vice-Chair: Sean D'Agnolo

Committee Members: Jen Glyzinski, Heather MacKay-Brown, Burr Neely

Program Administrator: Becky Snijder van Wissenkerke