NSA Management Plan

Primary tools for protecting Ag lands

- Land Use Designations
- Conversion opportunity is limited
- Large minimum parcel sizes
- Setbacks for new uses near existing and potential agriculture
- Urban development is limited to 13 designated Urban Areas
Land Use Designations
General Management Area

The diversity of agricultural operations in the national scenic area shall be recognized by distinguishing between large-scale and small-scale agriculture.

Large-scale agriculture lands:

(1) Currently devoted to agriculture of a scale that is land intensive, employs workers, or provides significant products for markets or processors, or

(2) Combination of soil capability, size, and freedom from conflicting use renders them suitable for large-scale agriculture or farm forestry.
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Small-scale agriculture lands:

(1) Currently devoted to agriculture of a scale too small to support workers or provide a significant volume of products for markets or processors, and

(2) Combination of soil capability and size for direct marketing or part-time/second-income agriculture.
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Agriculture-special lands:

Natural areas, or potential natural areas with exemplary native plant communities that are protected from most uses, except grazing with a conservation grazing plan, passive recreation, and restoration.
Special Management Areas

SMA agriculture lands:

- Lands used for or suitable for agriculture, based on soils.
- Regulations protect agriculture from conflicting land uses.
Permitted development on Agriculture parcels

One farm house, in conjunction with ag operation (except on small-scale ag)
- A second dwelling, if need is demonstrated
- *SMA lands require a 40-acre minimum parcel size to allow a dwelling

Seasonal farm labor housing in addition to a farm dwelling, if justified

Uses including farm stands, aquaculture, processing, etc

New cultivation

A winery on properties with established vineyards or cidery on properties with orchards

Tasting rooms on properties with wineries or cideries

Agricultural structures like fencing, trellises, irrigation, solar panels

NOTE: Agricultural practices, other than new cultivation are protected uses
Agriculture on non-ag parcels

Small gardens are allowed on all parcels, excluding open space

New cultivation on most other land use designations
What do we manage for on Ag lands?

In addition to Ag uses and accessories:

- **Scenic resources** – visually subordinate or not visually evident
- **Cultural resources** – archaeological sites, historic sites and buildings, Tribal Treaty rights
- **Natural resources** – priority habitats, water features, wildlife, rare plants
- **Recreation** – new development should not interfere with rec sites
What else do we do?

- Monitor Forest Practices
- Klickitat county permits; monitor and support 5 counties in implementing
- Small business loans through OIB and WIB
- Vital Sign Indicators long-term monitoring
- Regional coordination
Some opportunities we’ve thought of (not necessarily recommending):

• Encourage or leverage mitigation policies for conservation practices: examples are rare plant enhancement, UCD partnership, water conservation, biochar
• Limit new operations in areas with limited water?
• New income threshold is $80,000. Small scale ag at the western end is growing – flowers, vegetables. Might not meet the threshold.
• Address labor housing cooling costs and requirements for painting dark colors
• Is there a need to permit structures to extend growing season?
• Support affordable, dedicated farmlands to allow new and young farmers access to farmable lands, coops? Community gardens?
• Evaluate LUDs, given future soil moisture and other factors, for longterm ability to support ag