

Schroader, Kathy



From: susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 12:56 PM
To: Madore, David; Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Cnty 2016 Comp Plan; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Bullet points from the Globalwise Study, 2007

Analysis of the Agricultural Economic Trends and Conditions in Clark County
For the public record, Draft SEIS

- Historical conditions; 80% of all farms were less than 50 acres. "Small farms are characteristic of farms in Clark County," Pg. 4.
- "Class I and II land are of high and better than average productivity and support the farms with the highest income. This good farming land however is limited in area." "It's located on the Columbia River bank flood plains, Vancouver Lake, low terraces along the river north of Vancouver, and the drained lake bed of Fargher Lake." "Class III and IV are average productivity. This covers areas 5-15 miles inland from the Columbia River." Pg. 2
Historical description of extent and location of farms.
- "Lack of income and profit by farmers in Clark County has led to reduced land area in commercial farming." Pg. IV
- "Much of what the Ag. Census is reporting is rural acreages that are comprised of the land area associated with the homes of rural residents who combine non-commercial agricultural activities with their rural lifestyle." Pg. IV-V.
- "The historical farm statistics show that Clark County has always been dominated by small farms. However, small keeps getting smaller." Pg. 4
- "Lower income levels are sufficient to keep some farms in business, particularly the small scale, part time farmers. The absence of growth in net income has led to the long downward slide in this industry in Clark County." Pg. 25
- "In Lewis County's Court case, they advanced the argument that they were establishing the total acreage of agricultural land for designation based on an "agricultural industry needs assessment." "The latest Supreme Court (8/10/2006) ruling provides ample guidance for Clark County to establish its own set of agricultural land designation criteria. The Board of Clark County Commissioners to date has not adopted any new criteria for designation of agricultural land in the county."
- "Most (farms) are small and are struggling to be competitive and remain in business. Existing agricultural zoning and programs of support are not sufficient to help these agricultural operations be competitive in order to remain in business for the long term. Some are located on high quality soils but this is not uniformly true." Pg.49 "
- "For at least the last 30 yrs., agriculture in Clark County has been in a long downward trend in production and farm profits." "Farmers can only sustain themselves when they are profitable." Pg.48

Thank you,
Susan Rasmussen for CCCU, Inc.

Thank you,

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