

O'Donnell, Mary Beth



From: Euler, Gordon
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2014 10:10 AM
To: Orjiako, Oliver; Alvarez, Jose; Cook, Christine
Cc: O'Donnell, Mary Beth
Subject: FW: BERK - for the record
Attachments: Responses to Comments Ag and Forest_2014_0915.docx

All:

BERK's response to the CCCU e-mail questioning their maps/data.

Gordy

From: Lisa Grueter [<mailto:Lisa@berkconsulting.com>]
Sent: Sunday, September 14, 2014 10:06 AM
To: Euler, Gordon
Subject: RE: BERK - for the record

Hi Gordy,

Per our call, attached are our responses to the comments. We can go over them Monday morning. Thanks,

Lisa Grueter, AICP
206.493.2367 | DIRECT
www.berkconsulting.com



From: Euler, Gordon [<mailto:Gordon.Euler@clark.wa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2014 8:28 AM
To: Lisa Grueter
Subject: FW: BERK - for the record

Lisa:

FYI.....

Gordy

From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Tuesday, September 09, 2014 4:05 PM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose; O'Donnell, Mary Beth
Cc: Cook, Christine
Subject: FW: BERK - for the record

FYI

From: Madore, David
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2014 2:15 PM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: FW: BERK - for the record

fyi

From: Carol Levanen [mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 8:14 PM
To: Madore, David; Mielke, Tom; Barnes, Ed; Carol Levanen; Susan Rasmussen; Leah Higgins; Rick Dunning; Rita Dietrich; Jerry Olson; Fred Pickering; Jim Malinowski; Frank White; Benjamin Moss; Lonnie Moss; Melinda Zamora; Nick Redinger; Curt Massie; Marcus Becker; Clark County Citizens United Inc.
Subject: BERK - for the record

Dear Commissioners,

Today, August 12, 2014 CCCU gave testimony regarding the hiring of the BERK consulting firm and voiced CCCU's disapproval. Our research of this group gave us very good reason for doing so. One of the many reasons was submitted into the record to the hearing clerk. It consisted of two additional maps from the BERK rural lands study. One map depicted supposed agriculture land and supposed crops growing on those lands. These illustrations were not correct. In addition, they did not take into account prime ag soil in their review. The other map depicted forest resource in an area that has no forest soils. Reports were given over this resource in these areas that were also incorrect. Their "scientific" source was the Washington State Agricultural Department, which is only a marketing organization in the state, and the other "source" was BERK 2011, the very consulting firm who publishes the report. In fact most of the "source" for the BERK studies came from BERK itself. Where they got the information is anyone's guess and not mentioned, nor is credit given to the authors.

A consulting firm is to collect credible and scientific data and put in into some type of usable form to determine actions and outcomes. Bias subjectivity has no place in these types of paid studies. CCCU believes the county would have been much better served, if it had hired a different firm, that came to conclusions and recommendations via credible reports and scientific data.

Sincerely, Carol Levanen, Ex Secretary
Clark County Citizens United, Inc.

This e-mail and related attachments and any response may be subject to public disclosure under state law.

CLARK COUNTY RURAL LANDS STUDY

Responses to Comments on Map Data

OVERVIEW OF COMMENTS

On August 12, 2014, Clark County received an email commenting on two maps in the 2012 Clark County Rural Lands Study.

- One map depicted supposed agriculture land and supposed crops growing on those lands. These illustrations were not correct. In addition, they did not take into account prime ag soil in their review.
- The other map depicted forest resource in an area that has no forest soils.
- Reports were given over this resource in these areas that were also incorrect. Their "scientific" source was the Washington State Agricultural Department, which is only a marketing organization in the state, and the other "source" was BERK 2011, the very consulting firm who publishes the report. In fact most of the "source" for the BERK studies came from BERK itself. Where they got the information is anyone's guess and not mentioned, nor is credit given to the authors.

This document provides responses to these comments.

RESPONSE, AGRICULTURAL CROPS, SECTION 7.2, EXHIBIT 16

Based on the generalities of the comment we presume the commenter means Exhibit 16 of the Rural Lands Study, May 15, 2012, and the associated discussion.

7.2 Location and Spatial Patterns of Agriculture

Both the USDA Agriculture Census and Clark County Assessor's data do not provide geospatial specific locations of the actual land being farmed and the nature of the farming. The best approximation of the location of farming (and type) can be gleaned from a synthesis of the Current Use Taxation Program and WSDA's Crop Use data (Exhibit 16). Hay/silage followed by cereal grains and Christmas trees are the predominate crops in Clark County by section acreage.

The reference in the fourth line above to crop use data has a typographical error – USDA's Crop Use data should say WSDA's Crop Use Data, matching the legend in Exhibit 16, repeated on the next page.

Exhibit 16 presents WSDA's Crop Use data which is developed through WSDA's *field data* (specialists inventory in the field with GPS) and also other sources such as the USDA. WSDA maps data at a section (1 mile square) scale, which is very broad. The WSDA information is described at these links:

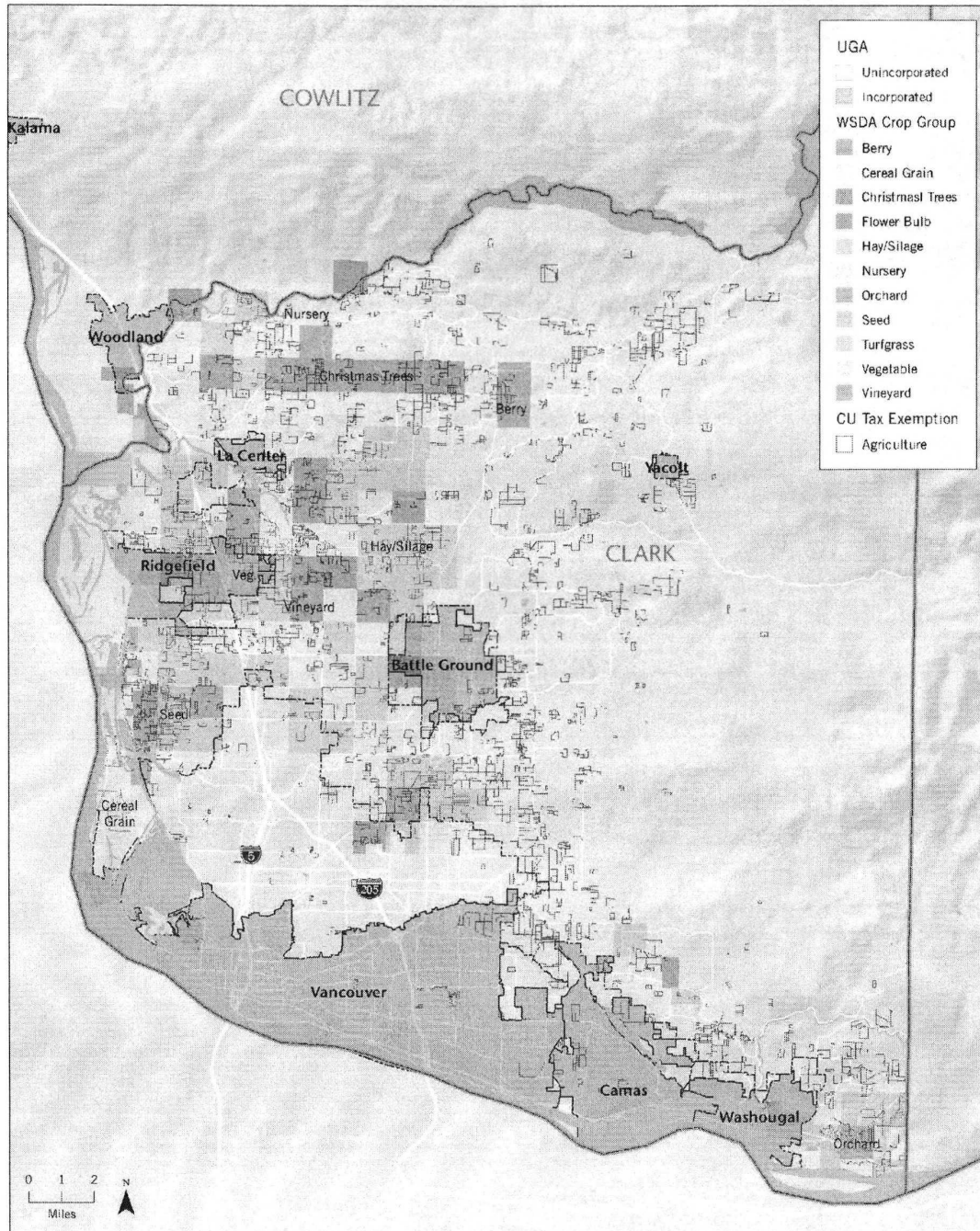
<http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/natresources/AgLandUse.aspx>

<http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/NatResources/docs/CropSectionsMetadata.pdf> .

Since the WSDA mapped information is very broad, however, BERK matched the section scale crop type with the parcel-specific current use taxation properties – these properties must meet current use program requirements such as being in agricultural use and producing products at certain levels of value. (See Situation Assessment Attachment D.) Because BERK combined and displayed multiple

sources of data, the map source indicated "BERK 2011". The explanatory text and legend show individual sources. For the record, we have clarified the sources below to match the text and legend.

Exhibit 16 Crop Type by Current Use Agriculture Designation



Source: Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Sections with Crops, 2011; Clark County Assessor 2011, BERK, 2011.

FOREST RESOURCES, SECTION 10.2, EXHIBIT 22

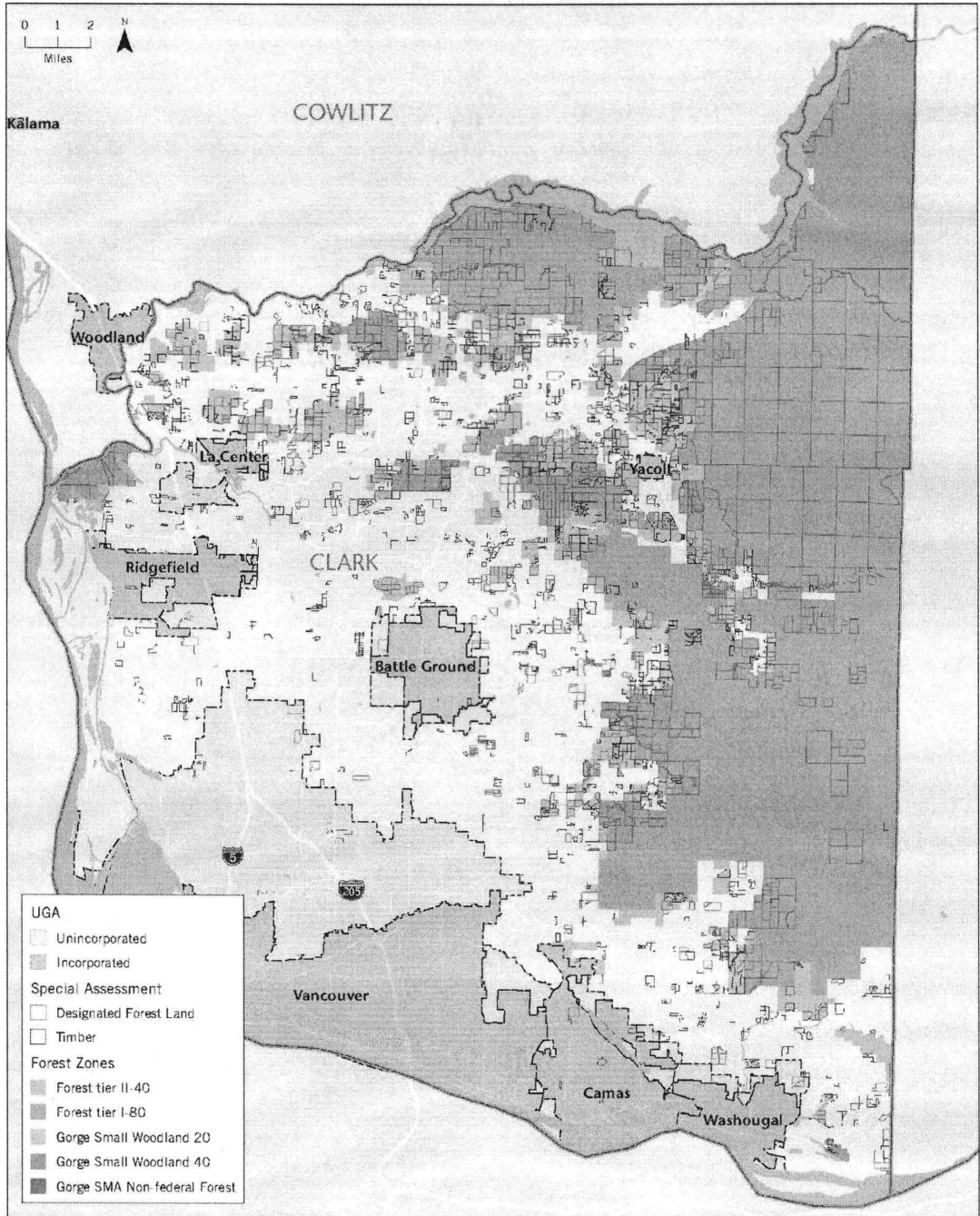
The commenter does not point to a specific map, but we presume the commenter means Exhibit 22 or Exhibit 23.

The Situation Assessment describes the maps as follows:

The best approximation of the location of forestry can be gleaned from a synthesis of the Current Use Taxation Program and the County's forest land use designation (Exhibit 22). In addition, a 2002 study for the County by UW's Rural Technology Initiative mapped the ownership of key forest lands (Exhibit 23).

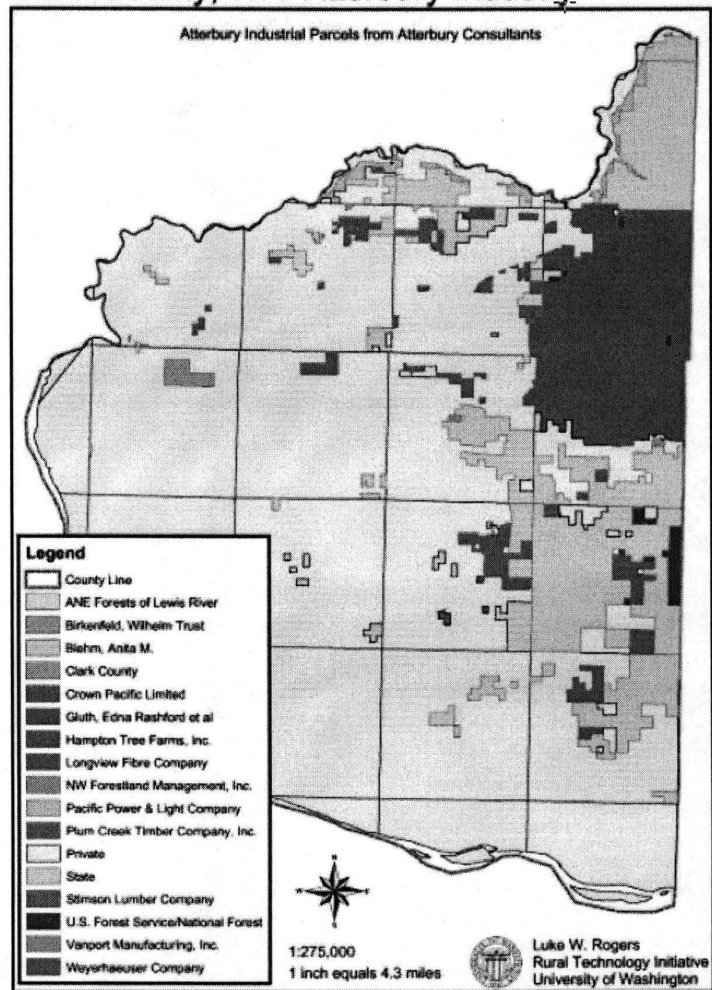
These maps show Clark County's forest land use designation per the Comprehensive Plan and the County's current use taxation information of land in timber or forest use, or ownership information. The maps were not intended to show soil types, nor does the text indicate so. Other maps in the County's Comprehensive Plan show various soil types as references.

Exhibit 22 Location of Clark County Timberlands



Source: Clark County Assessor, 2011; BERK, 2012.

Exhibit 23 Ownership of Clark County Timberlands



Source: Rural Technology Initiative, 2002.