

Agricultural Lands Goals/Policies recommended by LVAG:

Goal:

Agriculture of varying scales will continue to be practiced, and the fertile lands available for agricultural pursuits will be conserved wherever possible through incentives to keep land in agricultural production.

Goal: Maintain the vitality and ability of varying scales of agriculture in the Lower Methow valley.

Policies:

- **Conservation** of agricultural lands of long-term significance will be **encouraged.**
- Smaller farms that provide jobs and contribute to the economy of the area will be conserved using tools such as current use taxation, transfer or purchase of development rights, conservation easements, clustering and other options.
- Encourage adoption of protective land use measures for existing agricultural land
- Investigate and encourage the preservation of farm lands through innovative methods such as transferable development rights or land taxes which encourage agriculture, open space and forest uses
- **Encourage public use of private grazing lands through such things as development easements. STATEMENT TO BE REMOVED ON REQUEST OF GROUP**
- Identify viable agricultural lands using guidelines provided by the Soil Conservation Service and other qualified agencies. Once identified, work toward conserving those lands with innovative methods such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR).
- Support on going use of Open Space Taxation for timber and agriculture, Open Range for cattle, and other incentives for maintaining working lands.
- Non-agricultural use adjacent to farms and ranches will be subject to all existing functions of working facilities such as large machinery, sprays and chemical usage, irrigation equipment, dust, range cattle, night operations and other occupations of agricultural production.
- Subdivisions smaller than 20 acres will be prohibited in identified agricultural lands.
- Existing irrigation systems and appurtenant water rights will be protected.
- **Preserve Open Range STATEMENT ADDED BY GROUP**

