

	Desired outcome(s):	Measurable goals	Actions
viii	Agricultural protection (Protecting the agricultural industry) (Updated after September 2017 board meeting)		
	<i>Note that WID actions could contribute to this priority issue, but there are also external factors influencing it, such as land prices, agricultural markets, policies etc.</i>		
	<p>The Drayton WID's plans and actions contribute to the recognition, protection and strengthening of the agricultural base in the WID area.</p>	<p><u>Goal statement (a):</u> Suggestions from WID board for goal statements that might apply here to indicate recognition, protection & strength of agriculture? <u>Progress could be measured by:</u> An example might be the County Council resolution on preserving 100,000 acres for the ag land base, recognizing the importance of agriculture & associated industries for the local economy.</p>	<p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pursue options to provide secure water supply for agricultural users, in order to safeguard agricultural production in the WID area over the long term. ii. Coordinate with Whatcom Family Farmers to address legal challenges and preserve "one voice outreach" on behalf of agriculture (from March 2017 work session)
		<p><u>Goal statement (b)</u> Land use conflicts with neighboring non-agricultural landowners are reduced. <u>Progress could be measured by:</u> Number of complaints received from non-agricultural landowners by the WID or by Whatcom County.</p>	<p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. engage and communicate with non-ag landowners in the WID area about WID priorities and programs, normal farming operations, right-to-farm etc. (include specific actions in the communication strategy)* <p>* denotes actions that may need additional resources, and more detailed scope & description</p>
		<p><u>Goal statement (c):</u> Important agricultural land in the WID is protected from conversion through appropriate zoning and/or voluntary agricultural conservation easements. <u>Progress could be measured by:</u> Acres of land in the Drayton WID protected by voluntary agricultural conservation easements</p>	<p>"Preserving the land base" is a stated priority from the mapping report (2016), and the map of Agricultural Priority Areas in Appendix C shows Rural Study Areas (important agricultural land that is vulnerable to conversion) overlapping with the WID boundary. However, the board meeting minutes do not show any detailed discussion of this issue.</p> <p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p>