

vii	Agricultural protection (Protecting the agricultural industry) (Updated after September 2017 board meeting)		
	<p>The Bertrand 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> 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 Bertrand WID protected by voluntary agricultural conservation easements</p>	<p>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. "Preserving the land base" is a stated priority from the mapping report (2016), but 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>
		<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> <p>i. 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)* * denotes actions that may need additional resources, and more detailed scope & description</p>
		<p><u>Goal statement (c):</u> Suggestions from WID board for goal statements that might apply here? <u>Progress could be measured by:</u> An example of a measurable achievement might be adoption of the County Council resolution on preserving 100,000 acres for the ag land base, which recognizes the importance of agriculture and associated industries for the local economy.</p>	<p><u>Recently completed or ongoing:</u></p> <p><u>Priority actions for management plan:</u></p> <p>i. Coordinate with Whatcom Family Farmers to address legal challenges and preserve "one voice outreach" on behalf of agriculture (from March 2017 work session)</p>