
During the Rural Lands Analysis & Salmon Recovery in Local Planning project open house on July 8, 2026, attendees provided comments at each of the four engagement stations. Below is a summary of the input submitted.

-Jason Robert Walsh, Salmon Recovery in Local Planning Project Manager

Station 1 – Agricultural Lands: Strategies the County should prioritize to protect and strengthen farmlands

- Enhance tax benefits for agricultural lands and reduce permit costs for farms.
- Provide additional protections through zoning and land use planning to incentivize retention of agricultural lands like agricultural protection district or agricultural overlay.

These two received the most votes from attendees, each receiving six (6) votes. Something worth noting is that respondents appeared to generally favor policies and/or programming that provided financial incentives and/or tax breaks for agricultural or farm operations and increased access to land for existing and new agricultural activity.

Station 2 - Forestlands: What are the economic, cultural, and ecological considerations we should pay attention to?

Respondents provided comments for each category that could be summarized by the following.

- Economic:
 - Kitsap County should make funds available for forest maintenance and variable-density thinning.
 - Kitsap County should collaborate with tribes on conservation and restoration.
 - Industrial timber does not equal good jobs nor more jobs.
 - Kitsap County should focus on small scale forestry.

- Kitsap County should explore and implement [silvopasture](#) programs that utilize variable-density thinning.
- Cultural:
 - Industrial forestry results in job loss and a lost way of life.
 - It's too late to protect rural forests.
 - Why does Kitsap County DCD keep permitting huge developments without upgrades to infrastructure?
- Ecological:
 - Kitsap County should support sustainable forestry practices; which industrial forestry does not.
 - Forests are important for cleaning stormwater, for water recharge, wildlife areas, and maintaining ecosystem services.

General input provided at this station that was not in response to the activity: a ban on residential waste fires would lead to more dangerous conditions for rural forests.

Station 3 - Salmon Survival

- Kitsap County should prescribe more silvopasture in land clearing done for agriculture.
- Kitsap County should protect the tributaries of salmon streams and keep water as clean as possible.

Station 4 - Domino Effect

- Kitsap County needs to educate the public on "bio-filters" and how they can help keep our waters clean.
- Kitsap County should not allow commercial equestrian facilities to pollute streams.
- Kitsap County's current development patterns, with increased impervious surfaces (e.g., roads), are detrimental to salmon.