



Presentation to the September 16 City Council Meeting

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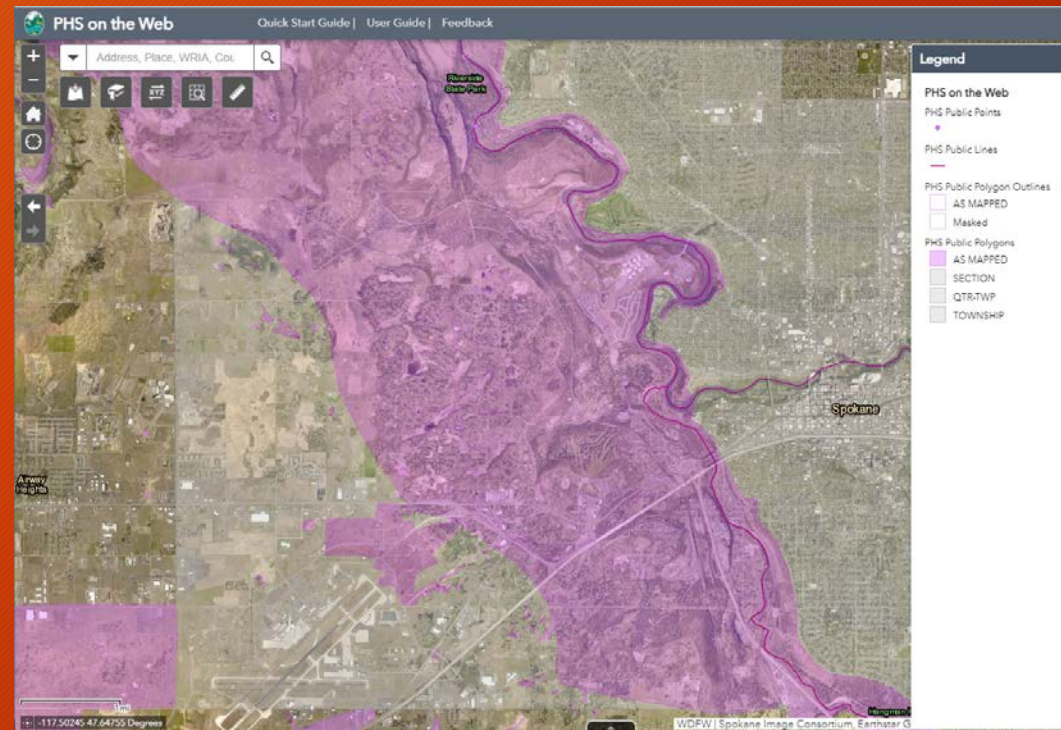
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Recommendations for better protecting critical habitat

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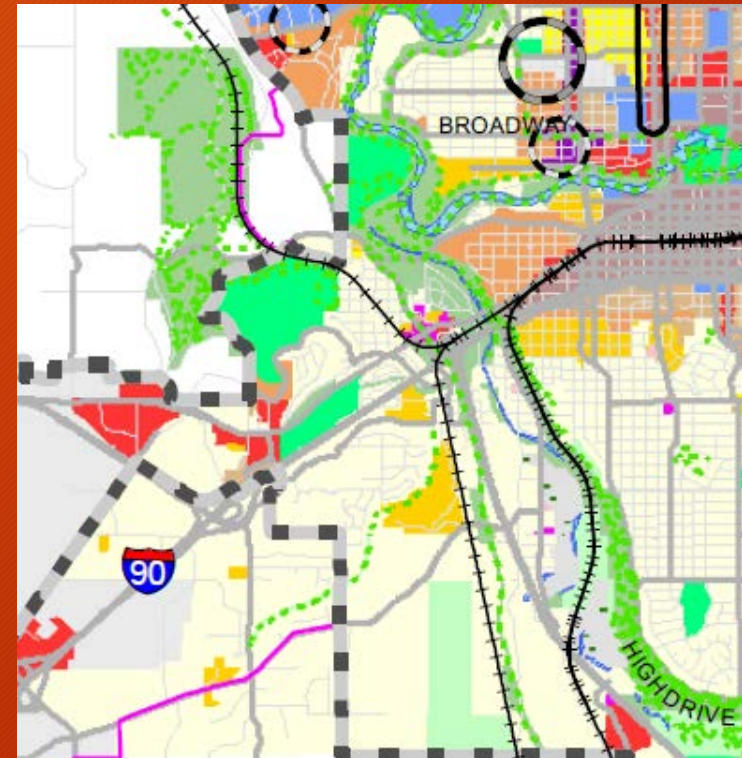
- Update critical areas regulations to ensure they incorporate best available science
- Plan for restoration in appropriate locations including public lands and buffers that lack native vegetation
- Support restoration funding at the local, state, and federal levels
- Continue the City's active participation on the Growth Management Steering Committee of Elected Officials
- Update the countywide planning policies to require better planning for fish and wildlife including coordinated open space corridors
- Support the net gain legislation (SHB 1117)
- Focus growth in suitable sites in existing cities and towns



Recommendations for better conserving agricultural lands

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- Work with the county to not expand urban growth areas onto agricultural or forest lands
- Designate and zone agricultural lands in advance
- For lands in the urban growth area, implement a transfer or purchase of development rights program
- Work with a land trust to identify key agricultural parcels and acquire development rights to conserve them
 - The Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland are an excellent example of an organization that privately raises funds, has a strategic plan, and acquires development rights on key parcels
 - The Federal government may increase funding for this work
- Help land trusts get state and federal funding to acquire development rights or to purchase farmland and lease it to farmers
- Support funding at the local, state, and federal levels



Recommendations for better conserving agricultural lands (cont.)

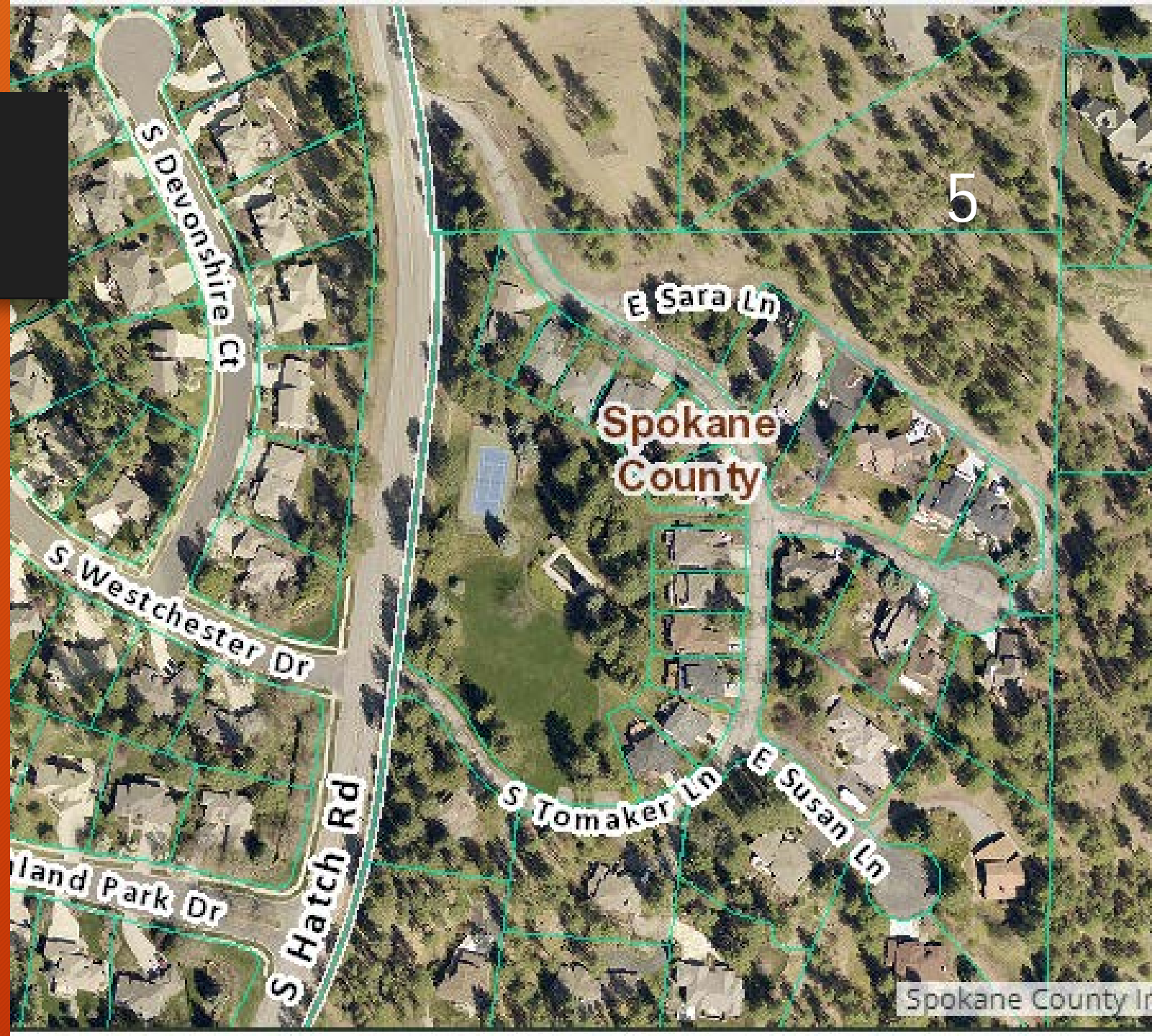
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- Continue the City's active participation on the Growth Management Steering Committee of Elected Officials
- Support changes to the State of Washington Department of Commerce minimum guidelines to better designate and protect agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance
- Update the countywide planning policies to require better planning for the designation and conservation of agricultural land
- Focus growth in suitable sites in existing cities and towns
- Prohibit the use of city water and sewer services for agricultural lands and prime farmland soils suitable for agriculture
- Continue to allow agriculture in appropriate zones
- Continue to allow and support farmers markets
- Continue to allow and encourage agricultural processing and shipping



Addressing development in the Urban Growth Area (UGA)

- Work with the county to adopt Spokane City zoning and development standards for the UGA
- Other counties do it
 - Douglas County (DCC 18.12.080)
 - Franklin County (FCC 17.86.010 comprehensive plan adopted)
 - Thurston Counties (Titles 21 - 23 TCC)
- Adopt joint development standards for key public facilities and services
- Adopt requirements for key retrofits when annexed



Continue and strengthen your good work on trees

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- Continue your street tree programs and Urban Forestry programs
- SpoCanopy is great!
- Advocate for continued urban forestry funding at the state legislature
- Adopt reforestation standards for sites logged in the county but that need city water and utilities

