Protecting Washington County’s Remaining Class I Soils: Area 8B
Helvetia Area 8B Soils

- Foundation Agriculture Land (ODA)
- "The best of the best" (ODA)
- 28% Class 1 (USDA NRCS*)
- Non-irrigated Class I and II is “High-value” farmland (ORS.215.710(1)(b))

Class I Willamette Silt Loam, Area 8B

* NRCS, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, is an agency of USDA.
Soil Capability Classes
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Essential to protect Class I soils – few limitations on productivity
- Class I soils are highest capability regardless of irrigation
- High-value soils are Class I – II
- High-value crops grown without irrigation: wheat and grain crops, clover, grass seed, hay, and filberts
- NRCS data used in ODA Report (and by Clackamas and Multnomah Counties)
- NRCS online database is updated frequently – most recently 2010
Original 4 areas of Class I soils

Washington County
Soils by nonirrigated capability class

Legend
Nonirrigated Capability Class
- Capability Class - I
- Capability Class - II
- Capability Class - III
- Capability Class - IV
- Capability Class - V
- Capability Class - VI
- Capability Class - VII
- Capability Class - VIII
- Not rated or not available

Sunset corridor
Tech district
South Cornelius
Sherwood

This map is for general planning purposes only.
Remaining areas of Class I soils

**Washington County**
Soils by nonirrigated capability class

Legend:
- Nonirrigated Capability Class
  - Capability Class - I
  - Capability Class - II
  - Capability Class - III
  - Capability Class - IV
  -Capability Class - V
  - Capability Class - VI
  - Capability Class - VII
  - Capability Class - VIII
  - Not rated or not available

This map is for general planning purposes only.
Proposed Urban Reserves – Area 8B

Proposed UR D/8B
Soils by Non-irrigated capability class

- Contains 28% Class I soils
- Part of largest concentration of Class I soils remaining in Wash. County
- Better than Sauvie Island (no Class I soils on Sauvie Island).

This map is for general planning purposes only.
WaCo's Area 8B Analysis Is Flawed

- WaCo lumped 8B into huge area of 7,000+ acres
- Sub-areas 9, 13, 14 skews the soil data on 8B's 440 acres
- Area 8B should have been analyzed alone

- FLAW: 8B's high concentration of Class I soils downgraded because of dissimilar soils in larger area, especially along the hilly northeast border of sub-area 14
- Consequence: Area 8B received lower rating for rural reserves (Tier 3)
WaCo Used Outdated Huddleston Report

- WaCo rejected 3 methodologies for soil analysis:
  - ODA Ag Lands Inventory
  - USDA NRCS Soil Classifications
  - High-value farm (LCDC)

- WaCo chose to use Huddleston Report
  - Higher weight on irrigated soil
  - Old data on crop production (1976)

- "If [Huddleston] soil maps are wrong, then the productivity rating will be wrong" –WaCo Record p. 662
Area 8B Soils: Conclusions

- WaCo’s soils analysis is flawed
- Class I is the best
- Area 8B is 28% Class I
- There isn’t much left
- Let's save what we have

Class I Willamette Silt Loam, Area 8B

Recommend remanding Area 8B for redesignation as Rural Reserves