



## Estimated Conversion Rate of Prime Farmland Soils in Washington State

Spokane ICCS

	1982-1987	1987-1992	1992-1997	Total
<b>Acres Converted</b>	<b>27,600</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>44,900</b>	<b>115,700</b>
<b>Conversion Rate</b>	<b>5520*</b>	<b>8640*</b>	<b>8980*</b>	<b>7,713</b>

\* Average acres per year within data collection cycle

Conversion of prime farmland soils to other uses, primarily urban development, totaled 115,700 acres in the 1982 to 1997 time period. This represents a loss from 2,401,600 acres to 2,285,900 acres represents a decline of about 4.8% of the prime farmland soils in Washington. This is a fifteen year average of 7,713 acres per year.

The average annual conversion rate was 5,520 acres per year between 1982 and 1987. In the 1992 to 1997 time period the conversion rate had increased to 8,980 acres per year.

Washington has many soils that are prime in all aspects except for those soils which do not have adequate irrigation water supplies. Therefore, prime farmland could increase or decrease depending on the profitability of growing irrigated crops as well as the availability of water for irrigation.

