



Spokane ICCS

Estimated Uses of Prime Farmland Soils in Washington State

1982 to 1997 Comparisons

		Cropland	Pastureland	Conservation Reserve Program	Rangeland	Forestland	Other Rural Lands
1982	Total Acres in WA	7,793,300	1,301,900	0*	5,979,800	13,097,300	889,800
	Total Acres of Prime Farmland Soils	1,386,600	373,800	0*	29,500	530,500	81,200
	Prime Farmland Soils as % of Total Acres	17.79%	28.71%	0%*	0.49%	4.05%	9.13%
1997	Total Acres in WA	6,656,100	1,193,200	1,016,800	5,856,900	12,834,500	950,700
	Total Acres of Prime Farmland Soils	1,293,000	327,100	38,800	28,000	503,200	95,800
	Prime Farmland Soils as % of Total Acres	19.43%	27.41%	3.82%	0.48%	3.92%	10.08%

Most of Washington's prime farmland soils are currently being used for the production of crops and livestock. These lands are primarily in eastern Washington. Another significant amount of prime farmland soils are currently forested and most of these acres are in western Washington. It is unlikely that the "prime" forested soils will be cleared for agriculture. This increases the importance of maintaining and protecting the remaining "prime" soils.

Cropland and pastureland are being converted to urban development at higher rates than any other rural land use. Effective strategies will need to be implemented to address these trends.

* Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) started October 1, 1985 and has since set aside approximately 38,800 acres of prime farmland soils in 10 to 15 year contracts.

NRI data is not collected for any year that the land is in Federal ownership.

