



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

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TulipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Washington Farmland Trust

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Organization's General Goals:

Washington Farmland Trust protects and stewards threatened farmland across the state. We keep land in production by making it accessible to a new generation of farmers.

Date of Award:

2024 Q2

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Washington Farmland Trust.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



June 20, 2025

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

As I reflect on our accomplishments of the past year, I am deeply grateful for the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund. While these achievements bring us hope, we also recognize the challenges ahead and remain committed to navigating them with resilience and purpose. I'm pleased to report on the work we carried out with your support.

Farmland Conservation. Helping families fulfill their vision of their land's legacy is a core component of our work, one that requires compassion, understanding, and the ability to pivot as needed. In 2024 we added two farms to our family of conserved farms, expanding our portfolio to nearly 3,800 protected acres. In Grays Harbor County the Trust purchased 260 acres of farmland to support a long-time farmworker, José Torres, in his journey to fully own the land where he began his career as a dairyman. Using a *Buy-Protect-Sell* approach, the Trust has been assisting José as he prepares for farm ownership. In Snohomish County, 74-acre Luckie Farms hosts two historic barns and pasture-raises horses, cattle, and honey, as well as flowers in partnership with a Hmong-owned farm business that was introduced to them through the Trust's Farm to Farmer program. Luckie Farms exemplifies the intersection of our conservation and land access work.

We completed the final milestones in the Reiner Farm project – the second fully completed Buy-Protect-Sell project and by far our most complicated to date. Following the riparian habitat sale of 116 acres to the Tulalip Tribes, we then sold 20 acres to the next generation of the Werkhoven Dairy family in October 2024 and in December, the dairy purchased the remaining tillable land, enabling the Trust to pay back our impact investors and bring this landmark project to a close. This project serves as a model for how we can work across interests to support the mutual goals of farming, conservation, and cultural traditions.

In Snohomish County, we began the due diligence and appraisal process for a 500-acre farm property, French Slough. One of the largest remaining contiguous farm properties in the



Snohomish valley, it is fifteen times the average farm size in the County and conserving it would represent a big win for continued farming in the rapidly developing community.

Farmland Stewardship. With each conserved farm property, we increase our land stewardship obligations for the long-haul. Aging infrastructure can be costly to maintain; flexible funding allows us to make necessary improvements to the properties owned by the Trust, keeping these farms agriculturally viable. At Ford Farm in Pierce County, volunteers helped remove invasive blackberry and weeds close to the house and assisted with efforts to ready the property for new tenants. With improvements to the well pump and new elk fencing on the way, the property will be ready for new tenants this year.

Supporting conservation initiatives on farmland is always a priority. Through our *Advancing Farm Sustainability* mini-grants program, the Trust funded four farms in King and Pierce counties. As a result, the farms were able to improve holding areas for livestock, install a rain catchment system, remove invasive weeds, and manage and apply compost to boost soil fertility. Altogether these activities promote climate resilience through sound ecological practices while also bolstering the sustainability of small, local farms.

In partnership with EarthCorps and Pierce Conservation District, we continued **restoration efforts** over four days in a riparian buffer zone along Dropstone Farms in the Carbon River watershed. The time was spent removing invasive blackberry plants encroaching on native plantings and fixing the tubes designed to protect those plants from elk and other wildlife. The team also tackled reed canary grass to better allow the native plantings to become established on the site. This multi-year project is important to creating the riparian buffer along Card Creek for salmon and other essential species.

Land Access. The Farm to Farmer program (FTF) continues to play a vital role in bringing equity to land access, food production, and food access. The direct connections built through this program bolster farmer resilience, particularly for marginalized communities that have been historically underserved. In 2024, FTF supported over 200 farmer clients in finding land, building capacity, and accessing resources, including six farmer clients who successfully signed leases or purchased properties. Taking another step toward ensuring accessible services, FTF introduced phone interpretation services in more than 200 languages to better serve clients, including American Sign Language.



Over the past year, we have deepened our investment in farmer collectives through the addition of our Farm to Farmer Collectives Manager, based in Spokane. This unique role supports 14 groups in different stages of formation and organizational development, assisting with goal-setting and developing a business plan, working through the funding and land acquisition process, and facilitating networks of like-minded individuals. More than 80% of the groups supported serve marginalized and BIPOC communities: African immigrants and refugees, Hmong farmers, farmers of color, and gender diverse communities. Across the year the Collectives Manager has worked with groups ranging from those just beginning to explore the idea of forming a collective to being ready to purchase land. The level and duration of support provided is tailored to each group's stage of development. Two-thirds of the clients are in the process of building the internal structure of their organization, while 20% are more established and ready to purchase land. The remaining 10-15% are new groups that are beginning to explore the idea of forming a collective. Two collectives secured funding to purchase land and one successfully purchased property in King County.

Love the Land. In 2024, WFT's annual fundraising event, *Love the Land*, raised over \$170,000 with more than 200 community members engaged either as attendees or donors. We are very grateful to our in-kind and cash sponsors who played a role in the success of the evening, including the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in carrying out the essential work of sustaining the future of farming. We look forward to building on our successes together. Please feel free to reach out with questions about our work.

With appreciation,

Melissa Campbell
Executive Director

