**Project Story**

Washington’s best farmland sits within the rich, loamy soils of our precious river valleys. But these valleys are treasured by more than just farmers. Rivers, salmon, forests, and urban life often all converge in the floodplain, right alongside prime farmland. In the Snohomish Valley, that convergence is amplified, particularly near Reiner Farm. It is located in the Tualco Valley, a concentrated area of commercial farming just outside of Monroe, along a reach of the Skykomish River that is home to critical salmon species. In absence of a successor, the family that had stewarded the farm for over 100 years reluctantly put the land up for sale in 2017, alarming regional salmon recovery and agricultural advocates alike.

To save the Reiner Farm, the Trust secured $3.4 million through a combination of philanthropic gifts and impact investments. With the property secured temporarily, the Farmland Trust is partnering with the Tulalip Tribes to protect the property’s priority riparian area, endangered salmon habitat, and the open space agricultural lands in perpetuity.

**Landscape Context**

In order to balance the varying interests from communities, farmers, tribes, government officials, and environmental advocates within our river valleys, PCC Farmland Trust participates in the Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS). This is a collective effort to support fish, farm, and flood management interests within a rich and rapidly changing region. The Reiner Farm is a high-priority acquisition regionally due to its agricultural and ecological value within the Snohomish Basin. This project can serve as a model for future projects as we work to protect more large-scale, multiple-benefit properties.

**Restoration Activities Planned**

Informed by initial qualitative monitoring, Tulalip Tribes began restoration activities within the riparian area in March 2020. They are focusing on invasive species removal and initiating a restoration strategy planning process to inform their current and future grant applications.

**Project Highlights**

- At 260 acres, Reiner Farm is five times the average farm size in Snohomish County
- 2 miles of critical riparian habitat along a salmon-bearing stretch of the Skykomish
- Builds partnerships among government agencies, tribal communities, and farmers to improve agricultural viability and natural resource and habitat protection
- Integral part of the Sustainable Lands Strategy’s priority for open space protection

**How the project advances climate resilience**

The Snohomish River basin’s long-term resilience is threatened by both the loss of the basin’s valley bottom and floodplain, as well as degradation of riparian habitat critical to future survival of threatened and endangered species. The protection of Reiner Farm addresses both challenges, by supporting a more robust and connected floodplain and protecting and restoring the critical habitat areas supporting regional terrestrial and aquatic resiliency.

The project also advances climate resilience by securing the property’s resource lands for long-term food production and open space connectivity. It demonstrates that strategic, community-based conservation can balance and find the common ground needed to keep our communities resilient to climate change.
PCC Farmland Trust Conservation Manager, Robin Fay, meets with landowner, Dale Reiner.

Natural resource map of Reiner Farm.

Landscape context.

Snohomish County Farmland Conservation Prioritization map.

Skykomish River.

Reiner Farm.

“They (PCC Farmland Trust) had respect for the farm, and I think that’s a big word. I think they could see the potential from all the work Dale put into it.”

— Charlene Reiner

All Photos and Images: PCC Farmland Trust