

From: [Oliver Orjiako](#)
To: [Sonja Wisser](#)
Cc: [Christine Cook](#)
Subject: FW: Flawed 1993 county process to determine resource land in Clark County
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 8:17:23 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-4spfd4bd.png](#)

Hi Sonja:

For the record. I have not replied to Councilor Yung question as this is news to me. Thanks.

From: Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 30, 2023 4:39 PM
To: Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Fw: Flawed 1993 county process to determine resource land in Clark County

Kathleen,

Is there any history behind this?

Glen Yung

Clark County Councilor
District 1
360-903-1587



From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 30, 2023 4:26 PM
To: Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Flawed 1993 county process to determine resource land in Clark County

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Clark County Council
December 30, 2023

P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD and the Comprehensive Plan update

RE: Flawed 1993-1994 county process to determine resource lands in Clark County

Dear Councilors,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. has two large binder notebooks of primarily resource maps, along with Comprehensive Plan maps of various years and associated map documents. One of those documents clearly describes what Clark County did, to determine resource land in Clark County in 1993 and 1994. The information came from the **Meta Data Information Browser of GIS**. It was a one page document that states:

Title..... GMA Landuse
Status..... .Active
Library..... .clark
Description.....Landuse polygons created for the 1994 GMA Depicts land uses within Clark County as determined by the Planning Department. It is a combination of the Assessors Landuse (Primary Property Type) and the mapping departments Photo Interpretation.
History.....Assessor's PTI code was aggregated into approximately 25 land use categories. Parcels greater than 1 acre were classified using photo-interpretation. Vancouver and Clark County also used limited field surveys to update the database.
Intended Use.....Growth Management and Land Use Planning The Photo Interpretation coverage is from 1:24,000 Aerial Photos, this is makes the product unsuitable for displan with the parcels coverage.
Keywords:.....landuse gma growth management

Technical & Source Data

Documented:.....12-May-93
Source Description:.....Assessor's database on the HP3000 as corrected from limited area field surveys by the City of Vancouver, Clark County Planning and photo-interpretation
Source date:..... 12-May-93
Completion Date:.....12-May-93
Source Scale:..... 4,800

<http://gis.clark.wa.gov/gishome/Metadata/?pid=metadata.layer&dbsID=328>

Unfortunately, that document is not accessible in its original form as it appears that GIS took the document out of the Meta Data, after Clark County Citizens United, Inc. exposed it in Commissioner Hearing testimony, to the Record, on approximately August 28, 2014. Shortly after this document was revealed, the GIS map makers who created GIS resource maps for CCCU, were fired. One of them had actually created the map reflected in the Meta Data document, and explained that it was very difficult to create such a map, using only aerial photography. He explained there was no meta data or legitimate documents to back it up. There was nothing in the record, except the maps that he was told to create, via aerial photography. That is not what the Growth Management Act mandates, when it requires counties to designate resource lands.

What this meta data document says, in a nutshell, is that there was no scientific data showing prime, good or poor soil. There was no credible data showing current or past resource activity. There was no lawful data showing compliance to WAC 365-190. There was no authorized data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.011. There was no legitimate data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.020. There was no legally permissible data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.030. There was no sanctioned data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.035. There was no allowable data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.050. There was no valid data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.170 RCW Mandatory Elements. There was no warranted data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.210. And there is no sanctioned data showing compliance to RCW 36.70A.215.

CCCU's book of Clark County maps goes from the late 1800s to today. Particular maps are of critical importance as they show what true resource land in Clark County really looks like. One of those maps came from my Wayne Newman's historical archives. He had recently come to Clark County from Lewiston, Idaho, just after World War II in 1945, looking to buy a farm.

He collected data from the **Agricultural Extension Service** that contained the latest farm and soil information for Clark County. It contained a large soil map titled, **Economic Land Use Class Map**, on one side, and the text called, **Economic Land Use Classification for Clark and Cowlitz Counties**, on the other side of the map. What CCCU saw with this information is that the AES discouraged buying land with Class 4 and Class 5 soils. They highly recommended only buying Class I soil, which had more than double the production of the other soils. They cautioned buying Class II and III soil, but allowed if it was managed well, could possibly be productive.

The 1972 USDA Agriculture Soils Manual, which Clark County was to use for the designation of resource land, said the same thing. CCCU used that Manual to

determine true resource land according to soil, as required by the Growth Management Act. That information was then given to GIS staff to create an agriculture resource map and a forest resource map. Those maps were then submitted in the public record for the 2016 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, via visual and written testimony from CCCU representatives. During an appeal of the Plan, that information was not available for review and could not be found in the Public Record.

Clark County staff appeared to "cherry pick" what got in the Record and what did not. In all, over 100 legal documents submitted by CCCU into the Public Record could not be found, and used for supporting documents during an appeal. That was by design. What was more egregious and illegal was that the GIS persons who had given CCCU that information, were fired. One of them had served GIS for over 20 years. Such actions by the county reached to a whole new level of illegal activity.

It's time to give those people back their jobs, that the county illegally took from them. It's time to use the authorized USDA soil manual, and even the 1980's Comprehensive Plan resource land data, to correct the flawed resource land maps that are currently being used by Clark County Planning. It's time to comply with the law mandated under the Revised Code of Washington 36, and the underlying Washington Administrative Codes that support it.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

Clark County Citizens United, Inc.
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