



Snohomish County
Planning and Development Services

Tom Reardon
County Executive

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Everett, WA 98201-4046

October 20, 2004

Ryan Ike
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region X
130 228th Street, Southwest
Bothell, WA. 98201-9796

Re: Agricultural activities in floodplains

Dear Ryan:

As we have discussed on earlier occasions, this letter is to memorialize certain agricultural activities which Snohomish County and FEMA agree are *de minimus* and do not require a flood hazard permit.

Activities which do not alter contours include tilling, plowing, harvesting, soil amendments, and farm ditch cleaning when such activity does not alter the originally constructed ditch configuration and the spoils are removed from site or tilled into fields as a soil amendment. Exempt activities would also include farm road construction or maintenance which does not alter contours, use culverts, and is less than six inches above grade.

Snohomish County supports agriculture and believes that requiring permits for the above activities places unnecessary restrictions on farmers while not impacting adjoining properties. All activities not listed would continue to be subject to flood hazard regulations as applicable.

If you have questions or wish to discuss the issues further please contact me at 425-388-3311, extension 2135 or e-mail me at Tom.Rowe@co.Snohomish.wa.us.

Sincerely,

Thomas Rowe
Division Manager
Planning and Development Services

cc: Craig Ladiser
John Roney