In late 2018, Whatcom Land Trust co-purchased 67.5 acres of riverfront farmland in the South Fork Valley with longtime Whatcom County resident and ecologist Eric Stover. This property has undergone a boundary line adjustment to separate the property. Now that this is completed, Whatcom Land Trust owns 36 acres of riverfront property connecting to other Land Trust owned properties along the South Fork. Restoration planning has begun on the 36 acres to improve the riparian area for salmon habitat and all other wildlife. Eric Stover envisions the remaining 30 acres as a thriving farm utilizing regenerative agricultural practices. This is a perfect example of farm and habitat coexisting.

“I see the partnership with the Whatcom Land Trust on this property as a perfect fit with the mission of the organization and its commitment to working with the community to foster good land stewardship. Thank you Whatcom Land Trust!”

- Eric Stover
Farm Easements

Today, along with our partners, we have protected over 1,200 acres of working agricultural lands in Whatcom County. Farm easements compensate farmers for the value of its development potential, providing working capital for their business and keeping the land in agricultural production. This permanently protects Whatcom’s agricultural lands, makes it more affordable for new farmers, and supports a local farm economy now and for generations to come.

Matheson Farm
18-acre farm north of Bellingham off the Guide Meridian near Bellewood Acres is part of a 40-acre grass-fed beef pasture operation that sells high quality meat locally. Owner and operator Sandra Matheson is a local leader in sustainable livestock farming and mentors young women coming up in the farm industry.

Grubbs Farm
20-acre farm on Kelly Road east of Bellingham. Sam and Donna Grubbs grow mostly U-pick strawberries. The Farm abuts Anderson Creek, a major tributary to the lower Nooksack River providing important Coho spawning and rearing habitat.

Cougar Creek Ranch
157-acre farm located near the Nooksack River east of Ferndale. Inherited from his grandmother, owner Karl Prisk and his wife Sophia raise organic livestock, including heritage breed hogs, grass-fed beef and poultry.

Sidhu Farm
40-acre farm east of Lynden off Badger Road. Historically pasture for a nearby dairy farm, this property has been converted to raspberries and corn. Half of the property is forested wetland habitat.