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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
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Listening to farmers: the farming in the floodplain project

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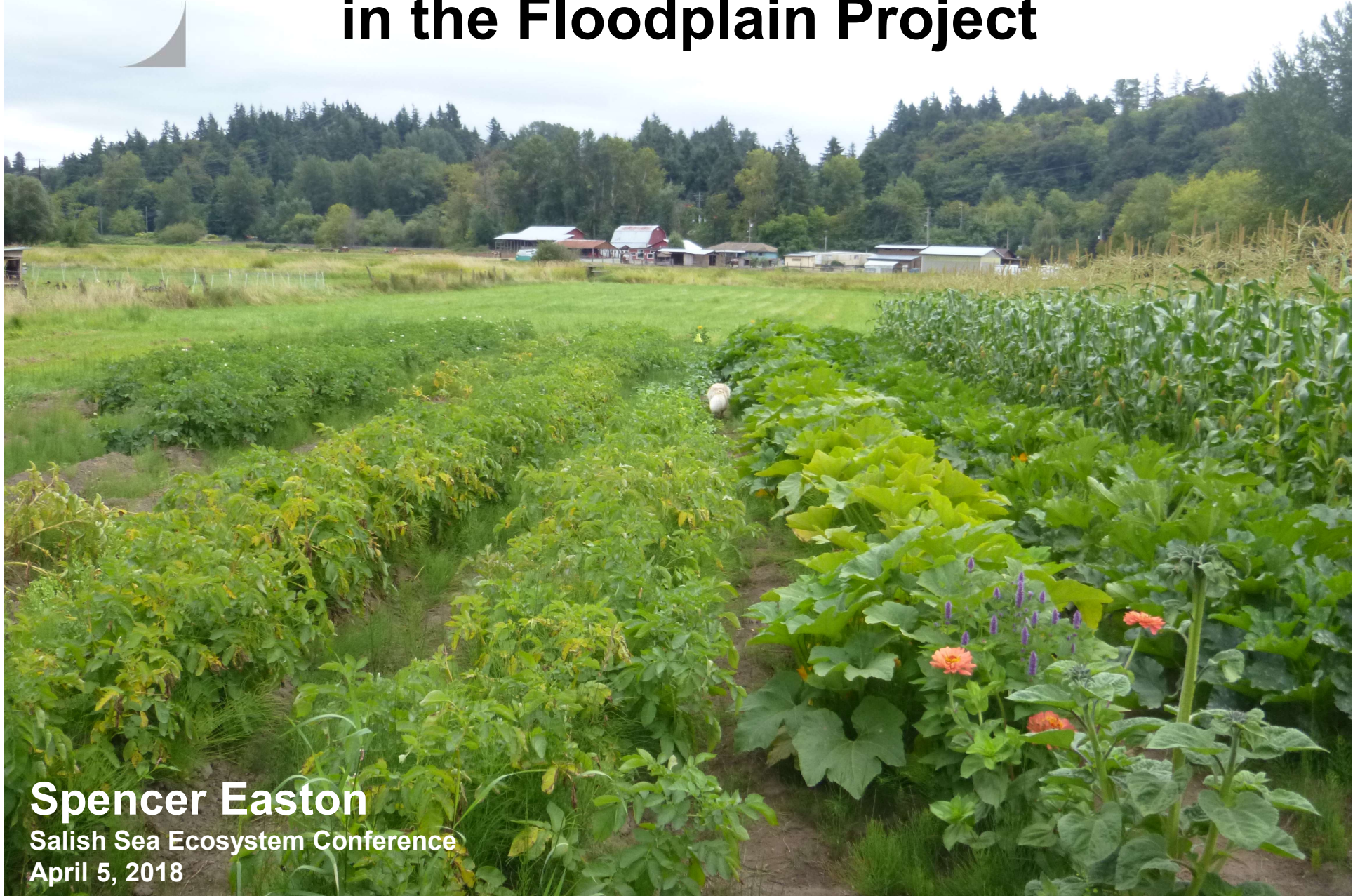
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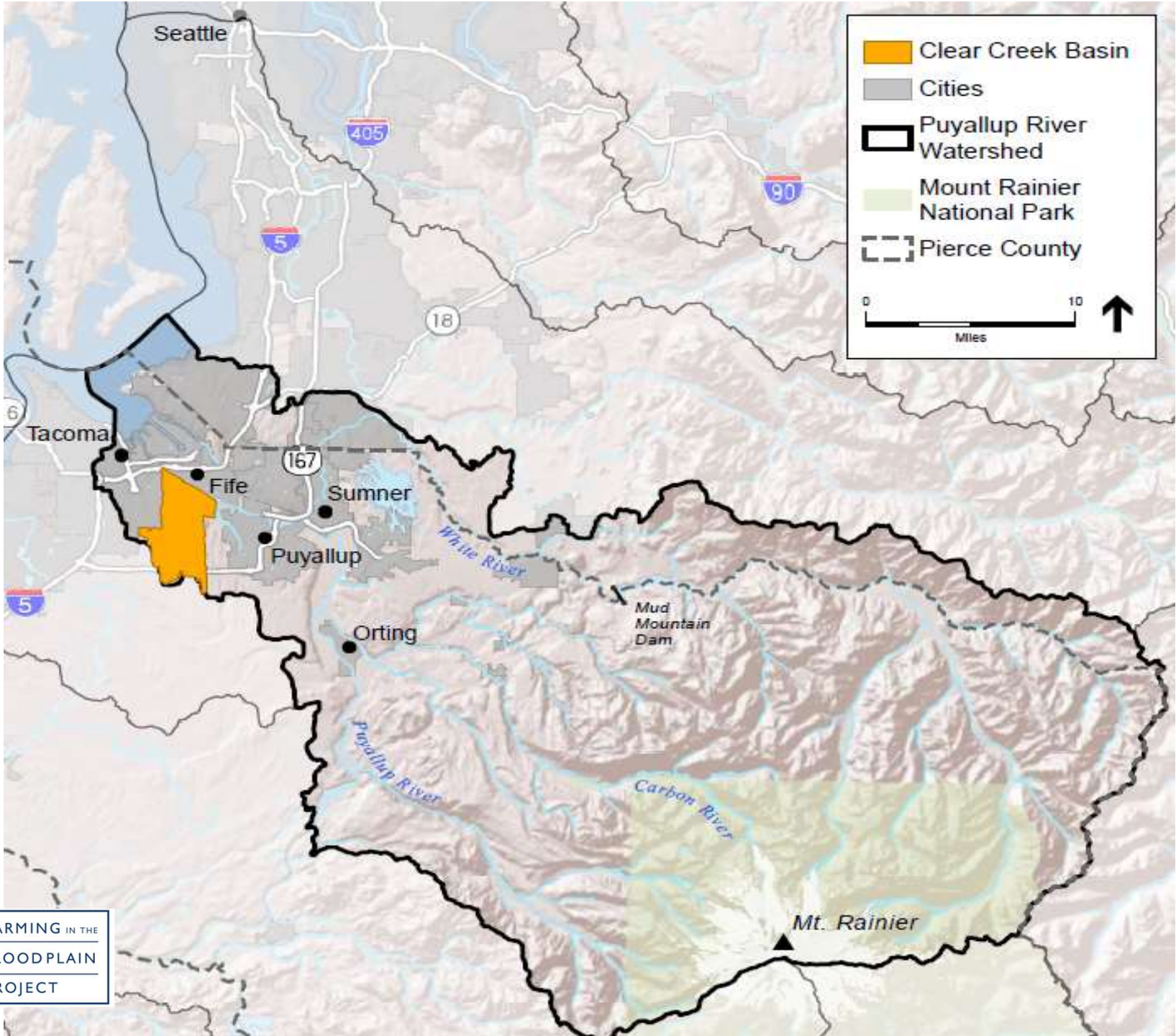
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Listening to Farmers: The Farming in the Floodplain Project



Spencer Easton
Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
April 5, 2018







Elements of the Project

- Technical Advisory Group
- Landowner Engagement
- Existing Conditions Report
- Drainage inventory
- Flood risk research
- Facilitate workshop on sediment
- Evaluation of the tide gates
- Evaluation of the impacts of the proposed levee project on farmland
- Findings and Recommendations Report





Strategies Used

- Listening to and documenting farmer concerns
- Synthesizing existing information and applying it to agricultural needs and concerns
- Broadening the focus of the project to agricultural viability
- Forming an advisory group that mixed technical experts with farmers
- Pursuing on-the-ground actions



Lessons Learned

- Document farmer concerns in writing
- Acknowledge differences between farms
- Use a phased approach
- Be flexible with direction of research
- Make it easy for farmers to participate



Successes

- Trust with farmers
- Well-received technical reports
- Our recommendations led to two on-the ground actions
 - Planting project
 - Tide gate improvements





What's Next

- Participation in Clear Creek Strategy Plan process
- Feasibility study of separating agricultural drainage from Clear Creek and other drainage improvement options
- Expand focus to the watershed as a whole
- Expand drainage efforts



