

# Deschutes County Agricultural Lands Analysis



## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



# Overview Of Tonight's Meeting



<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>6:10 p.m.</b>	<b>Agricultural Lands Presentation</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Open House</b>
<b>7:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Public Comments</b>
<b>7:50 p.m.</b>	<b>Closing Comments / Next Steps</b>
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

# Why Discuss Farm Designations and Land Uses?

Board of County Commissioners first directed staff to initiate a Non-Resource Lands Program

2013-14 Work Plan

*Explore programs to determine the best option to review and potentially change farm and forest land designations.*



# Why Discuss Farm Designations and Land Uses?

## Reframing the Discussion

Work sessions enabled staff to reframe the issue away from ~~Non-Resource Lands~~

- Planning Commission Engagement
- Panel Discussions
- Public Input
- Board Direction

Premature to contemplate agricultural land alternatives (i.e. Non-Resource Lands) when we don't know all the issues today

# It Starts with a Conversation

Deschutes County is interested in understanding public, stakeholder, and landowner opinions about the opportunities and challenges facing agricultural designated (EFU) lands

- **What's working?**
- **What's not?**



# Statewide Land Use Planning

## Statewide Land Use Goals Established in 1974

- Goal 1 - Citizen Involvement
- Goal 2 - Land Use Planning
- ***Goal 3 - Agricultural Lands***
- Goal 4 - Forest Lands
- Goal 5 - Natural Resources, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Open Spaces
- Goal 6 - Air, Water and Land Resources Quality
- Goal 7 - Areas Subject to Natural Hazards
- Goal 8 - Recreational Needs
- Goal 9 - Economic Development
- Goal 10 - Housing
- Goal 11 - Public Facilities and Services
- Goal 12 - Transportation
- Goal 13 - Energy Conservation
- Goal 14 - Urbanization

(Goals 15-19 later added addressing the Willamette River and coastal resources)



# Goal 3 Agricultural Lands

## **To preserve and maintain agricultural lands.**

*Agricultural lands shall be preserved and maintained for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products, forest and open space and with the state's agricultural land use policy expressed in ORS 215.243 and 215.700.*

(Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 660-015-0000(3))



# What Is Agricultural Land?

Goal 3 defines agricultural land largely in terms of soil productivity, as measured under the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service's Soil Capability Classification System.

Agricultural land includes Class I-IV soils in western Oregon, Class I-VI soils in eastern Oregon and other lands suitable for farm use.

(Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 660-015-0000(3))

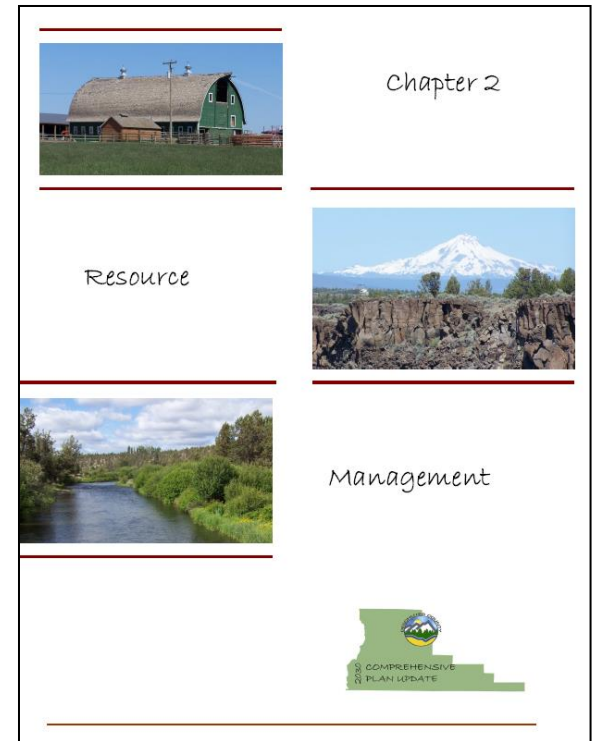




# Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan

The *Comprehensive Plan Update* (2011) recaps the history of agricultural land designations in Deschutes County and recognizes they remain controversial

Public expressed differences of opinion over which lands should be designated farm lands and what uses should be allowed



# Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan

The *Comprehensive Plan Update* recognizes:

- Agriculture is part of the ongoing local economy
- Secondary benefits of agricultural lands: scenic open spaces, rural character, and contributions to tourism economy
- Difficult to predict future agricultural opportunities
- Preserving farm lands benefits the wider public at expense of landowners
- Farm land is marginal without irrigation
- Agricultural zoning applied to land with no history of farming
- Potential adverse impacts to farming community from agricultural land conversion



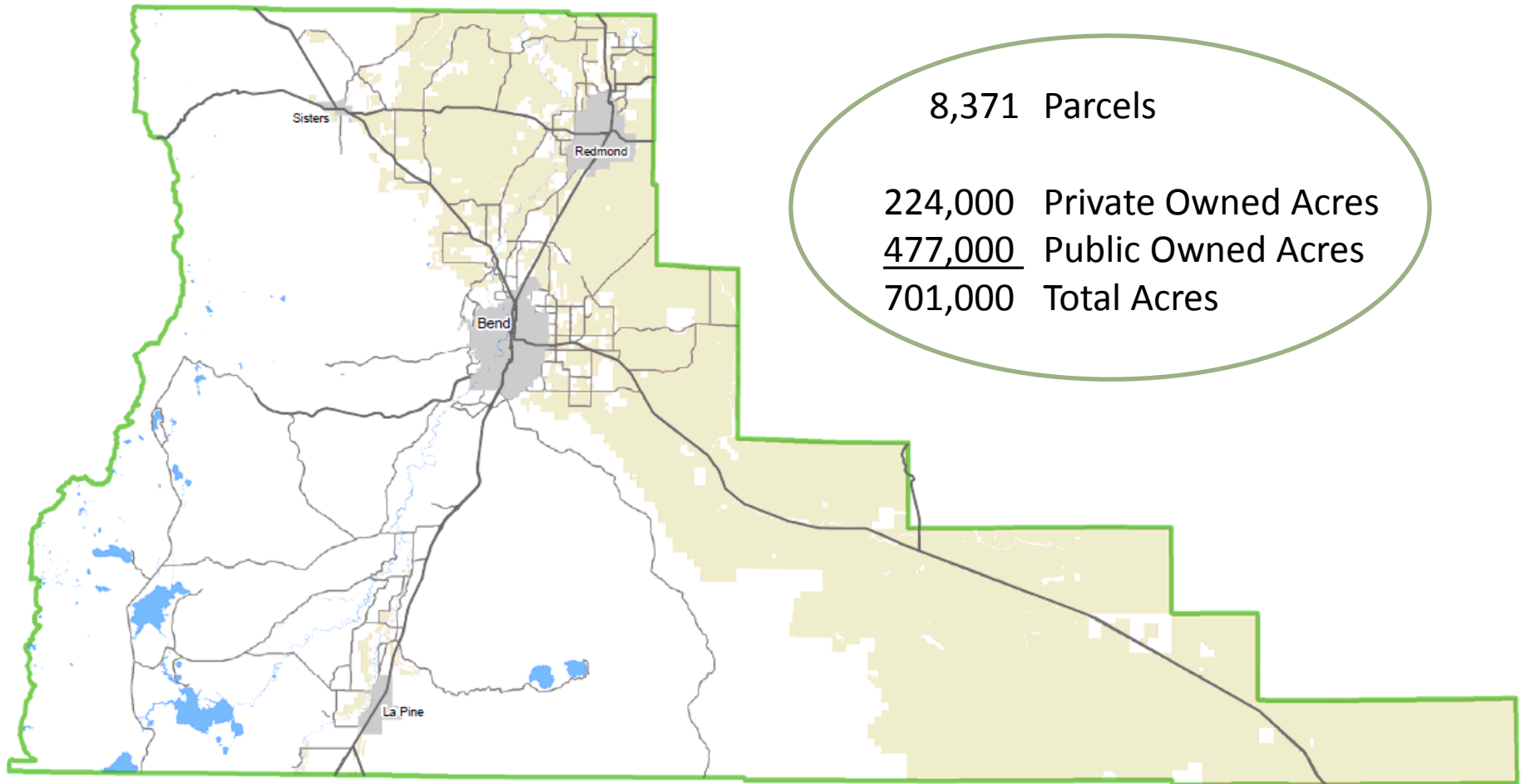
# Deschutes County Comprehensive Plan

## Section 2.2 Agricultural Lands

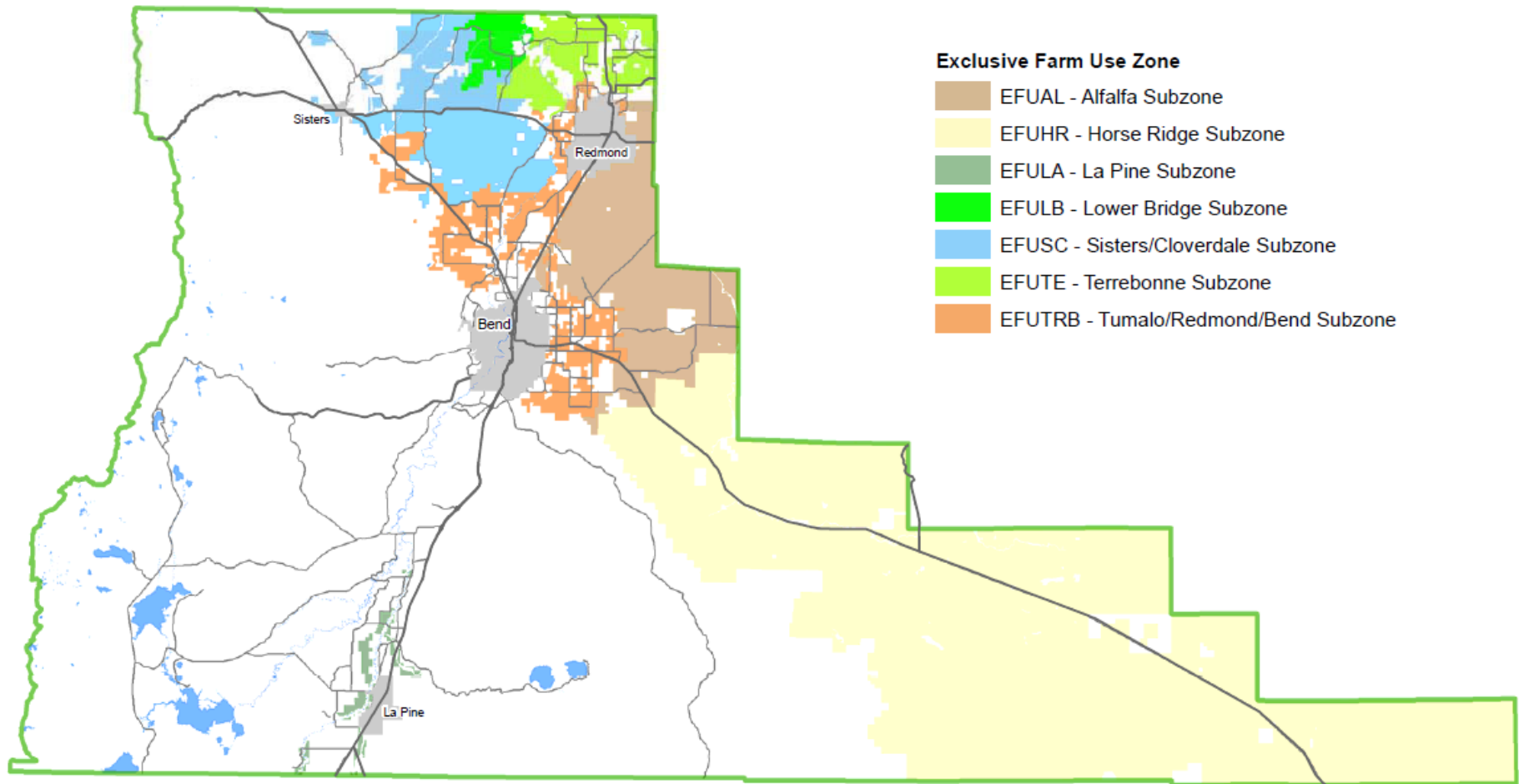
- Goal 1 Preserve and maintain agricultural lands and the agricultural industry.
- Goal 2 Promote a diverse, sustainable, revenue-generating agricultural sector.
- Goal 3 Ensure Exclusive Farm Use policies, classifications and codes are consistent with local and emerging agricultural conditions and markets.



# Deschutes County EFU Lands



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# Other EFU Land Use Considerations

Wildlife Habitat



Fire Protection Districts

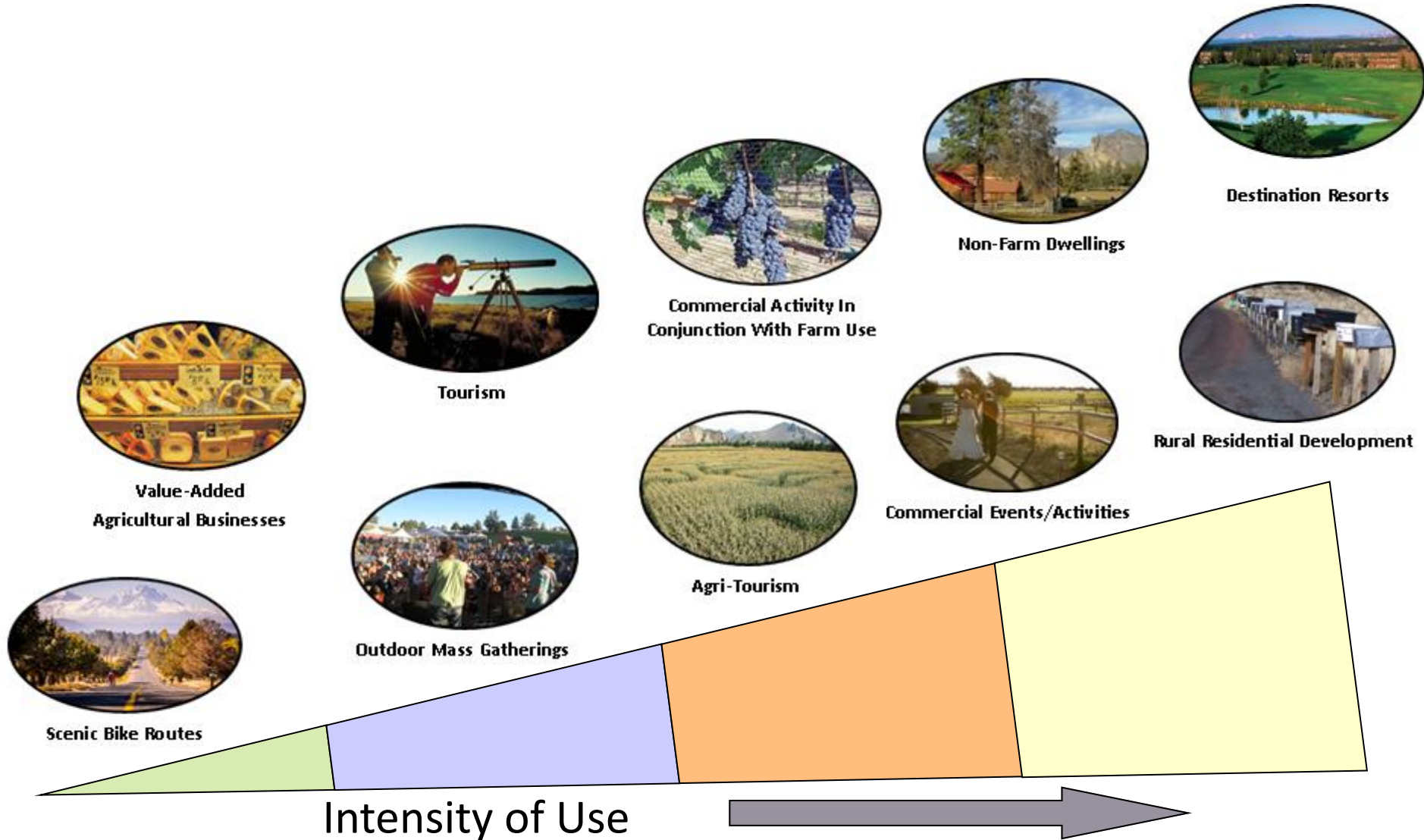


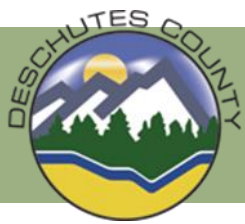
Irrigation Districts





# EFU Land Use Trends





## **Open House**

### ***Information Stations***

EFU Overview  
Existing Conditions  
Land Use Trends

### ***Comment Board Exercises***

### ***Questionnaire***

### **Public Comments**

### ***Open Microphone***

### **Closing Comments / Next Steps**



# Closing Comments/Next Steps

- Public meetings scheduled throughout the county in May.
- Stakeholder meetings also scheduled.
- Joint BOCC/Planning Commission Work Session on June 26 to recap process, discuss results and next steps.



# Thank You For Joining Us!

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