

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY:

DRAFT ORDINANCE NO.

ORDINANCE NO. ____ - 2021

AN ORDINANCE TO PROMOTE IMPROVED SOIL HEALTH IN SAN JUAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, soil, plant, animal, and human health are intricately linked and the sustainable use of soil affects climate, water and air quality, human health, biodiversity, food safety, and agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, soil is a dynamic system that performs many functions and services vital to human activities and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, despite soil's importance to human health, the environment, nutrition and food, feed, fiber, and fuel production, there is little public awareness and understanding of the importance of soil protection; and

WHEREAS, the degradation of soil can be rapid, while the formation and regeneration processes can be very slow; and

WHEREAS, protection of San Juan County soil based on the principles of preservation and enhancement of soil functions, prevention of soil degradation, mitigation of detrimental use, and restoration of degraded soils is essential to the long-term prosperity of San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, policies and legislation on climate change, water quality, agriculture, and rural development should offer a coherent and effective framework for common principles and objectives that are aimed at protection and sustainable use of soils in San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, soil degradation associated with poor or inappropriate soil-management practices continues to leave degraded soils in decline; and

WHEREAS, soil can be managed in a sustainable manner, which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic, and social benefits, while maintaining its value for future generations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County Council of San Juan County, State of Washington, as follows:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. Recognition. A new section is added to the San Juan County Code to read as follows:

A. San Juan County recognizes soil as an essential natural resource, and agricultural landowners play a critical role in managing San Juan County's soil resources.

B. The San Juan County Farm Management Plan Requirements shall include a SUPPLEMENT A: SOIL HEALTH & IMPROVEMENT as a condition of approval or continuation for Current Use Farm & Agriculture Classification Application with the San Juan County Assessor.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective on the 30th day following its adoption.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2021.

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk Date

Jamie Stephens, Chair
District 3

REVIEWED BY COUNTY MANAGER

Michael J. Thomas Date

Cindy Wolf, Member
District 2

RANDALL K. GAYLORD
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: _____
Date

Christine Gabler-Minney, Member
District 1