DATE: September 19, 2019

TO: Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

FROM: Farmland Preservation Program

SUBJECT: Report on AEAs recommended for designation in 2019

The Agricultural Enterprise Area evaluation team met on July 18, 2019 to review three AEA petitions received during this petition cycle. The team recommend the designation of the South Fork AEA, Clark County, Bear Creek AEA, Sauk County and Castle Rock AEA, Grant County.

Table 1: AEAs recommended for designation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AEA Name</th>
<th>Approximate number of acres</th>
<th>Number of petitioners</th>
<th>AEA Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Fork</td>
<td>20,417.88</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Clark County, Mead and Reseburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear Creek</td>
<td>30,691</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sauk County, Bear Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle Rock</td>
<td>23,040</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Grant County, Castle Rock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of AEAs statewide
Designation of the recommended AEAs is completed by departmental order, with notification of the order posted in the state newspaper. Following notification, the designation takes effect on January 1, 2020. After designation of the three successful petitions there will be 40 AEAs in the state totaling 1,388,667 acres. The AEAs are located in portions of 27 counties, 112 towns and the Bad River Reservation (See Attachment B).

Attachment A: Summary of the 2019 AEAs recommended for designation
Attachment B: Map of designated and recommended AEAs
Attachment A: Summary of the 2018 AEAs recommended for designation

South Fork AEA

Overview
- Clark County, Towns of Mead and Reseburg
- 20,417.88 acres
- 27 petitioners
- Dairy, grain (soybeans and corn), corn silage, hay (alfalfa)

Goals
- Assess resource quality and quantity, implement methods to increase function and usability in the economy and environment
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to meet soil and water conservation standards
- Implement strategies to minimize rural residential development
- Maintain natural resources for recreational and agricultural use
- Create the largest contiguous block of working lands as is possible
- Retain and enhance existing agricultural-based businesses by reinvesting in the agricultural economy

Items of Note
- 3rd AEA in Clark County, first AEA to extend eligibility to participate in farmland preservation in the western, broadly unzoned, portion of the county

Beak Creek AEA

Overview
- Sauk County, Town of Bear Creek
- 30,691 acres
- 7 petitioners
- Corn silage, grain (corn), hay (alfalfa), dairy, rotational grazing

Goals
- Preserve and maintain existing land uses, provide for future land uses that will promote balance among property values, environmental protection and economic opportunity
- Grow and promote locally grown produce through direct marketing or through sales to local co-ops
- Grow the mindset of regenerative farming practices
- Educate landowners on the importance of fair rental prices to producers who follow conservation practices
Items of Note
- 2nd AEA in Sauk County, petition demonstrated distinct conservation emphasis

Castle Rock AEA

Overview
- Grant County, Town of Castle Rock
- 23,040 acres
- 7 petitioners
- Dairy, beef, grain (corn, soybeans), hay (alfalfa)

Goals
- Allow current farmland preservation agreement holders to continue to participate in the farmland preservation program, encourage new participation in the area
- Protect the 6 class I and class II trout streams in the Blue River Watershed
- Protect the Snow Bottom State Natural Area
- Encourage sustained agricultural practices, promote upland best management practices

Items of Note
- 1st AEA in Grant County, 1st unzoned township in the county to participate in the farmland preservation program (outside of planning)
Attachment B. Proposed Agricultural Enterprise Areas 2019

- Green: Proposed AEAs (2019)
- Dark Gray: Existing AEAs
- Light Gray: County Boundary

Map showing proposed agricultural enterprise areas in 2019.