

**CITY OF WINLOCK, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. 1185**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINLOCK, WASHINGTON
ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT TO FARM, RESCUE, AND
AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE
CREATION OF A FARM AND AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD;
ESTABLISHING ZONING SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND HOBBY FARMS,
TREE FARMS AND ANIMAL RESCUE OPERATIONS; AND
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY.**

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the City of Winlock, Washington (the “City”) is a Code City under the laws of the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35A.11.020, the City may adopt and enforce ordinances of all kinds relating to and regulating the City’s local or municipal affairs and appropriate to the good government of the City; and

WHEREAS, all references herein to “WMC” shall mean the “Winlock Municipal Code,” and

WHEREAS, the City of Winlock and surrounding Lewis County region have a long-standing agricultural heritage, and farming continues to be a vital component of the area’s economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes a significant increase in small-scale “hobby” farming, tree farming, and animal rescue operations, and acknowledges the importance of protecting such activities from urban encroachment and nuisance litigation; and

WHEREAS, RCW 7.48.305 Washington’s Right to Farm Act provides statutory protection for agricultural practices from nuisance lawsuits when such practices are consistent with good agricultural practices and established prior to conflicting land uses; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish strong, clear protections for farming, rescue and forestry activities within its jurisdiction, including the creation of an advisory body to support these uses and mediate disputes; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it is in the public interest to formally codify these protections and ensure long-term agriculture viability and compatibility with growing residential development; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to create a new chapter 2.90 WMC as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINLOCK, WASHINGTON DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. There is hereby created a new chapter 2.90 of the Winlock Municipal Code entitled “Farm and Agricultural Advisory Board”.

Section 2. Section 2.90.010 of the Winlock Municipal Code is hereby created to state:

2.90.010 Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to:

- A. Affirm the City’s support for agriculture, tree farming, and animal rescue operations as priorities in the community;
- B. Prevent and attempt to avoid nuisance claims and unreasonable restrictions on agricultural operations and/or activities;
- C. Support the growth of small and hobby farms; and
- D. Create a Farm and Agricultural Advisory Board to guide city policy and serve as dispute resolution body.

Section 3. Section 2.90.020 of the Winlock Municipal Code is hereby created to state:

2.090.020 Farm And Agricultural Advisory Board – Created.

The Winlock Farm and Agricultural Advisory Board is hereby created shall hereafter be referred to as the “Board” or the “Farm Board”. Members shall be appointed by the mayor on the basis of their particular fitness for the duty without respect to political affiliations, subject to the approval of the city council.

Section 4. Section 2.90.030 of the Winlock Municipal Code is hereby created to state:

2.90.030 Definitions.

- A. “Agriculture activity” or “agricultural activity” includes the cultivation of crops, animal husbandry, aquaculture, apiculture, composting, silviculture (tree farming), and animal rescue operations.
- B. “Animal Rescue Operation” means a use or facility where domestic or farm animals are sheltered, rehabilitated, and/or made available for adoption. This shall not include commercial breeding or kennel operations.
- C. “City” means the City of Winlock, Washington.
- D. “Good Agricultural Practices” means those practices that are customary and accepted in the farming industry and conducted in a manner consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- E. “Hobby Farm” means a small-scale agriculture operation, generally less than ten (10) acres, operated for personal or supplemental income purposes.

Section 5. “Tree Farm” means land used for the cultivation, management, and harvesting of trees for commercial or conservation purposes by small private land owners. This shall not include lands used or managed for industrial timber production.

Section 6. Section 2.90.030 of the Winlock Municipal Code is hereby created to state:

2.90.030 Farm and Agricultural Advisory Board.

- A. Organization. Immediately following their appointment, the members of the Farm Board shall meet, organize, elect such officers as it may deem necessary, and adopt and later change or alter rules and regulations of organization and procedure consistent with city ordinance and state laws. The Board shall keep written records of its proceedings, which shall be open at all times to public inspection. The Board shall also file an annual report with the mayor and city council setting forth its transactions and recommendations.
- B. Composition. The Farm and Agriculture Advisory Board shall consist of five (5) members. Three (3) members shall reside within the city limits of Winlock. Two (2) members shall reside within the boundaries of the Winlock School District as may be adjusted from time to time, within the surrounding rural/agriculture areas.
- C. Term of Office. Of the five (5) appointed members, one shall serve for a period of one year, two for a period of two years, and two for a period of three years. The terms of the five members thus appointed shall be fixed and designated by the mayor at the time of such an appointment. Thereafter such appointed members shall serve for a period of four (4) years. The Mayor may remove any member of the Board for inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or three unexcused absences in one year, subject to confirmation by a majority of the Council. Vacancies occurring otherwise than through the expiration of terms shall be filled for the unexpired terms only. All members of the Board shall serve without compensation.
- D. Quorum. A majority of the membership of the Farm Board, no less than three of whom shall be appointed members, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any action taken by a majority of those present when those present constitute a quorum, at any regular or special meetings of the Farm Board, shall be deemed and taken as action of the Board. Members shall abstain from voting on matters that create a conflict of interest.
- E. Secretary. The Farm Board may designate one of its members to act as secretary without benefit of salary, or if requested by the Board, the mayor may designate a member of the paid staff of the city to serve as such secretary, who shall be compensated in accordance with the employee policies, employment contract, and/or collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

Section 7. Section 2.90.060 of the Winlock Municipal Code is hereby created to read as follows:

2.90.060 Duties.

- A. The Board shall provide recommendations to the City Council, assist in dispute resolution, and support education and outreach efforts.
- B. The Board may, if requested,:

1. Hold public meetings and make recommendations to the Winlock Planning Commission on rural and resource components of the Winlock Comprehensive Plan and policies within that affect agriculture;
2. Hold public meetings and make recommendations to the Winlock Planning Commission on development regulations which affect agricultural operations;
3. Assist the Community Development and Public Works Departments on other matters of agricultural policy which from time to time may be referred by the City Council.

Section 8. **Section 2.90.070 of the Winlock Municipal Code is hereby created to state:**

2.90.070 Adoption by Reference.

Sections 7.48.300-.320 RCW, as currently enacted or as hereafter amended or recodified from time to time, are hereby adopted by reference and shall be given the same force and effect as if set forth herein in full.

Section 9. **Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional or unlawful by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance.

Section 10. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after its publication, or publication of a summary thereof, in the City's official newspaper, or as otherwise provided by law.

Section 11. **Corrections.** Upon approval of the City Attorney, the City Clerk and the codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbers, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Winlock, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof this 23 day of June, 2025.

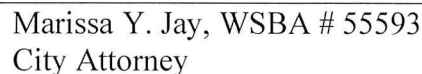


Brandon Svenson, Mayor

Attest:


Maureen Crabtree, City Clerk

Approved as to form:


Marissa Y. Jay, WSBA # 55593
City Attorney

Approved Reading:	06/23/2025
Publication Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Date:	07/01/2025