THE EVERGREEN COMMUNITY FARM

A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN PROGRAM 11-24-71

Members of the Evergreen community, particularly students and faculty in the Environmental Design program, have shown a strong desire to create an organic farm. There have been several meetings held at which ideas have been generated and developed. At this point, we, "the farm group", are submitting a request for the use of the property and building facilities at the corner of Lewis and Simmons roads. This land was a small farm prior to the development of The Evergreen State College. A boundary survey, included in this proposal, has been completed.

The Evergreen community farm is to be an organic farm modeled after the Santa Cruz and the J.I. Rodale experimental farms. These are both classical examples of working experimental farms. Organic means that no chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used and that the machinery is muscle-powered (animal and/or human) and/or a non-polluting form of energy.

SCOPE

Because the production of food is the very basis of human existence and because any agricultural endeavor involves altering the natural environment, this farm is a vital experiment for our program that is concerned with designing in harmony with the environment. The prime consideration of organic farming is sound ecological planning, i.e. altering the natural environment constructively. For example, it is necessary to conserve proper soil fauna

through composting to maintain the health and productivity of the soil. Environmental study and design will be one of the main responsibilities and learning experiences of the farm group.

PURPOSE

The farm is intended to serve as a learning resource area where new ideas and skills can be developed. Improved methods for farming organically, such as alternatives to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, can be explored. Initially, the farm project will be limited to basic research and building projects - soil and vegetation surveys, repairs to or removal of existing structures, land-use studies. As additional information is gathered and as skills develop, the farm and people and projects will expand beyond the basics of farming into areas such as new insect resistant strains of crops. The farm has long range potentials for studies in future years when more land can be put into production, animals can be obtained, new structures can be erected and flowers can be grown.

GOVERNANCE

Governance of the farm project will be by general consensus, or collective opinion, of the farm community. This form is adopted since the farm will be run as a community. The people, i.e. community, making the decisions will be those putting time and energy into the project and who have a working knowledge of the farm. This form of governance, rather than by committee, will facilitate the involvement of all members of the farm community in the decision making processes - a valuable learning experience - and consequently increase the knowledge base for these decisions. It will eliminate communication

problems through group fragmentation; the knowledge isolation that results will be removed. All activities will be posted in order to insure that any interested member of the college community may participate. The Olympia community will serve as an important resource area. Since the farm is a part of the college, the farm group will be held directly accountable to The Evergreen State College administration, faculty and students.

PELIMINARY SCHEDULE

I) ECOLOGICAL PLANNING

Develop a land-use plan consisting of (a) soil survey, (b) land survey of boundaries and contours (one foot intervals), (c) location and condition of buildings and other structures, (d) water drainage, (e) catalog of plant life and wildlife habitat types. This information will be cataloged by overlay maps patterned after Ian McHarg's techniques described in Design with Nature. These studies will be used as our reference for land-use decisions, dovetailing into a planting plan for spring. This plan will include a map of how the farm will look after planting (size and location of fields, crop location, type of planting style used, where other farm functions will occur). Presently, there is a contour and boundary map of the farm (included in this proposal), Soil and drainage surveys are in progress as well as an evaluation of existing structures.

II) COMPOSTING

In order to build up an adequate supply of compost by spring, a winter composting method will be started the first week of December. This includes remodeling one of the outbuildings as a compost shelter since composting must be done inside during the winter to maintain necessary heat. A garbage shredder musy be constructed in order to break down large pieces of garbage to facilitate faster decomposition. Because it is already late in the year, it is imperative that we begin immediately to allow sufficient time for decomposition processes. Plans to gather organic refuse from the school are under way with Bill Kenworthy.

III) BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

During December and January, the buildings for agricultural and craft use, such as canning, storage, weaving, need to be repaired for use in the spring. These buildings will also serve as a meeting place for farm community planning and workshops this winter. (See Supplement)

IV) GREENHOUSE

Develop a plan and construct a greenhouse or hothouse during winter quarter. This will be a low-cost, temporary structure, probably dome shaped and sided with plastic.

V) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

This winter, the desirability and feasibility of animal husbandry on the farm for this year will be discussed and studied. An extensive study and evaluation of what animals the farm can support and the desirability, benefits and maintainance will be undertaken.

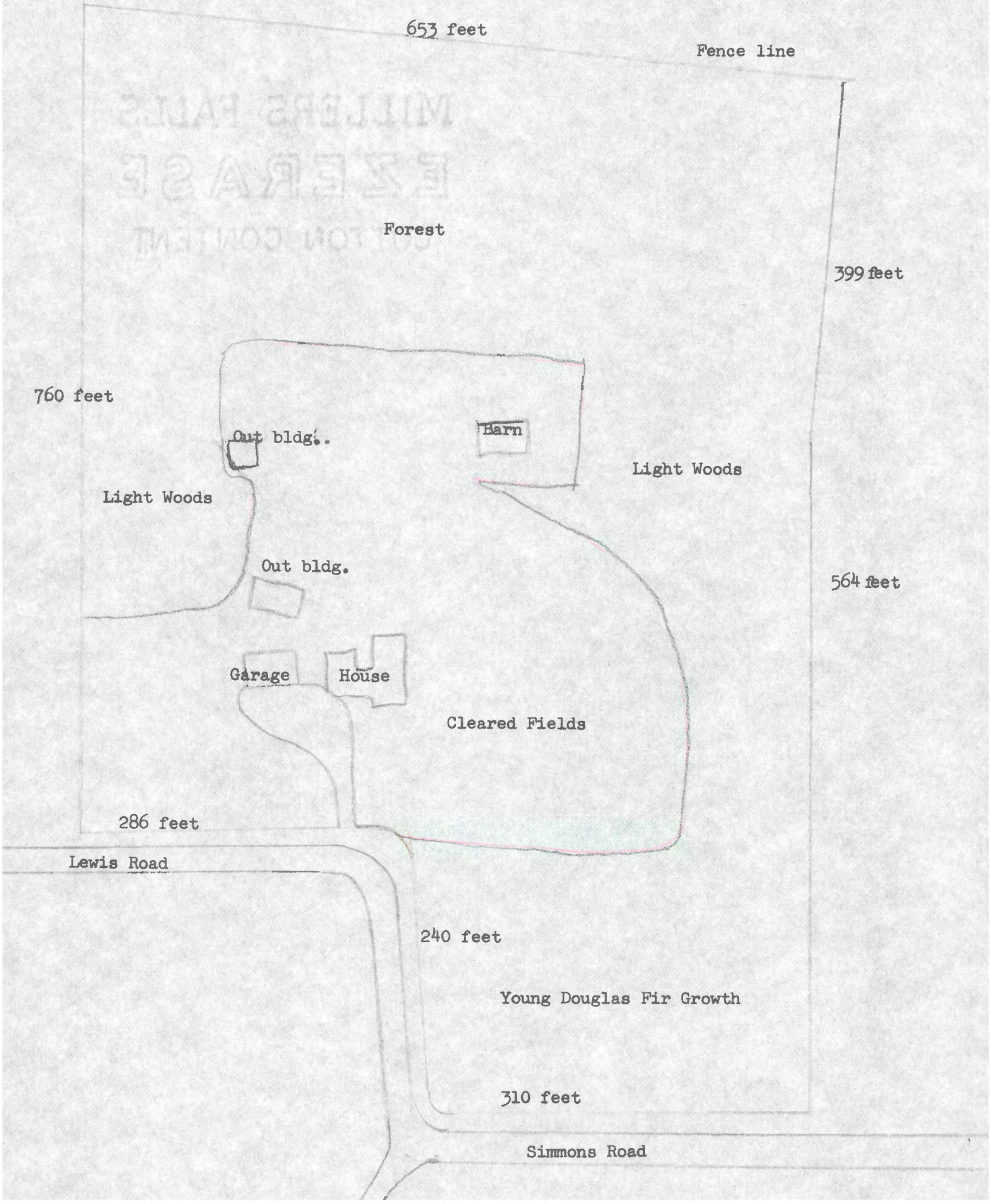
VI) PLANTING

The spring planting will be determined by the land-use and soil surveys and studies. The plan for this year is not to disturb any uncleared land.

VII) SUMMER SEASON

Suitable arrangements for handling the farm during the summer season will be made. People (such as Kagan and Habbick) will be available all summer to run the farm.

MAP


653 feet
Fence line
Forest
399 feet
760 feet
Out bldg.
Barn
Light Woods
Light Woods
Out bldg.
564 feet
Garage
House
Cleared Fields
286 feet
Lewis Road
240 feet
Young Douglas Fir Growth
310 feet
Simmons Road

SUPPLEMENT

The existing structures were examined by three faculty members of the Environmental Design program for the purpose of assessing their states of condition and repair and to establish their possible farm uses. All existing buildings were determined to be useable and requiring minimal repairs and improvements.

The principle structure, the house, has had a new concrete perimeter foundation wall and is structurally sound. The exterior wall surfaces require only catching up on the normal maintainance to bring it up to standard. While the interior wall and ceiling surfaces show no signs of leakage, the structure ought to be given a new roof. (The possibility of students splitting their own cedar shakes from cedar falls salvaged from campus property is being explored. A community person has been contacted in this regard and has offered to give a workshop on splitting shakes and roofing.) The interior needs some refinishing in some rooms, particularly the kitchen area. The living room and the two south wing bedrooms are in good condition, as is the bath and its fixtures. The garage is in excellent condition and will require no improvements.

The barn will require only minimal maintainance and improvements. The roof, walls and basic structural frame is in excellent condition and, for all practical purposes, it is readily useable in its present state.

The other two outbuildings will be useable for tool storage, composting, etc. Most of the fencing on the interior of the property will have to be repaired if it is determined to be retained by the users.

The improvements of the physical structures on the farm are seen as opportunities to enrich the total educational experience of the project by affording the students complete designing-construction-evaluation experiences. All such improvements involving mechanical, electrical and basic structural will be coordinated with the office of physical facilities on the campus and will conform to the applicable building codes.

Phil Harding

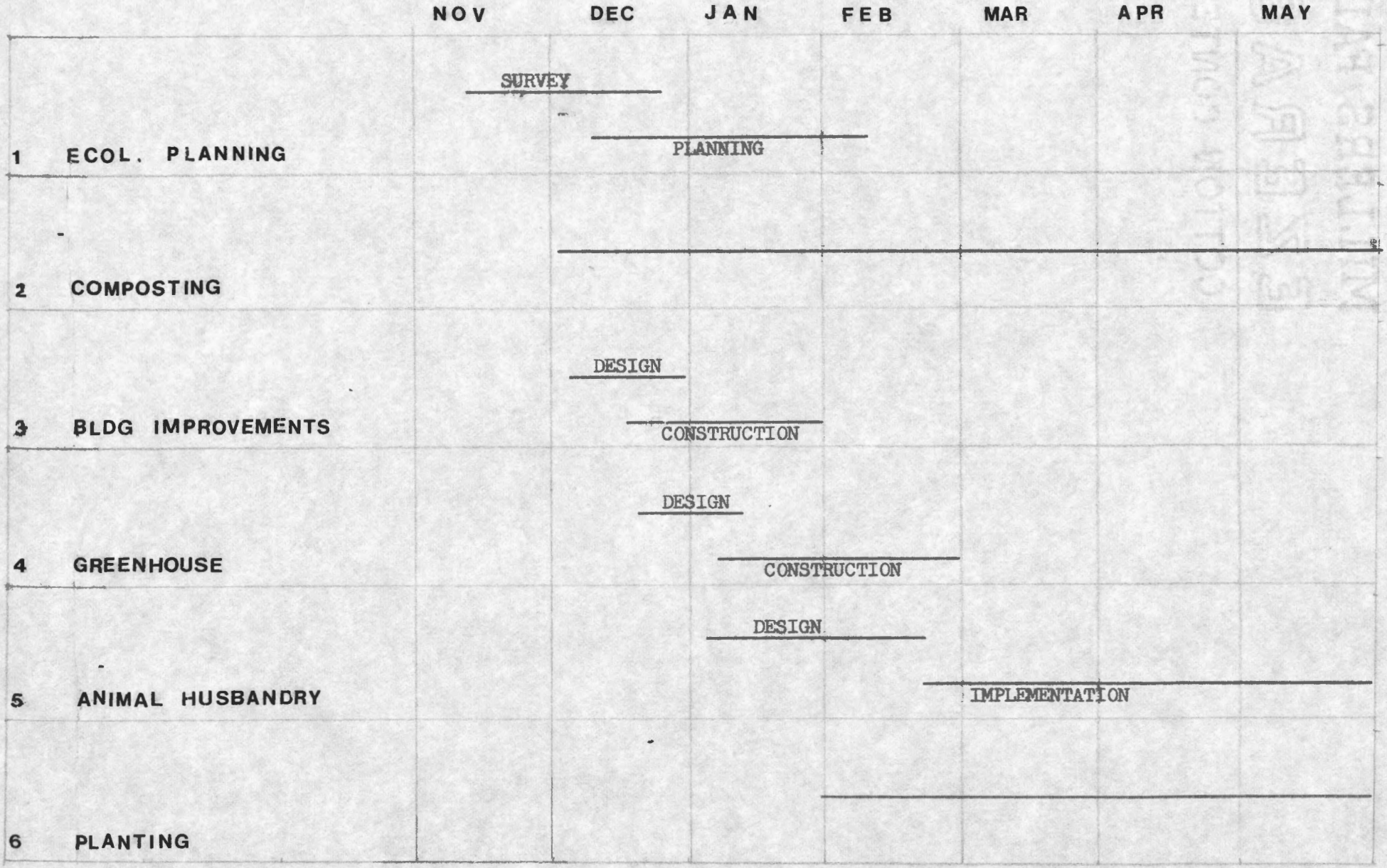
CONTACT PEOPLE

Environmental Design

Mariel Brockway
Bruce Bulloch
Linn Compton
Carolyn Dobbs
Larry Eickstaedt
Frida Habbick
Phil Harding
Jimmy Kagan
Annette Klapstein
Jan Lenox
John Metke
Mack Musick
Diane Myer
Sara Natwick
Bill Rotecki

Other Programs

Susan Beliveau
Steve Cantor
Rosie Lapham
Chris Rauschenberg
Steve Semel
Denise Sterchi


NOV
DEC
JAN
FEB
MAR
APR
MAY
SURVEY
1 ECOL. PLANNING
PLANNING
2 COMPOSTING
DESIGN
3 BLDG IMPROVEMENTS
CONSTRUCTION
DESIGN
4 GREENHOUSE
CONSTRUCTION
DESIGN
5 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY
IMPLEMENTATION
6 PLANTING