The Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) inherited several sets of historic aerial photographs from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) when NRCS closed its Whidbey Island office in the 1990s. The aerial photos are images of Whidbey Island and Island County from the 1940s, 1963, and 1990. There are a few incidental aerial photos from other years.

WICD recognized the important historic value of these aerial photos. In the spring of 2015, the Washington State Conservation Commission awarded funding to WICD to electronically archive the images. The aerial photos were first scanned to the WICD server and then with the aid of Andrew Phay of the Whatcom Conservation District and WICD’s dedicated IT associate, Richard Doyle, the aerial images have been posted online for public access.

The tangible photos have now been donated to the Island County Historical Society to be archived at the Island County Museum in Coupeville.

To access the map and the aerial photos, follow this link: https://wacds.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b938cbebc3d94a90b59f586c8eaeeec5. The online portal to the maps will also be hosted on the Whidbey Island Conservation District Website: http://www.whidbeycd.org/.