

"It is the intent of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 to: (a) Promote plans to protect and enhance critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture in the state of Washington and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses¹..."

AGENDA
Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program
FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2016
10:00AM – 12:00PM

North Yakima Conservation District
1606 Perry St # C, Yakima, WA 98902

1. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes) – Facilitator, All
2. Updates (60 minutes) – Project staff
 - a. Review latest mapping
 - b. Update: Summary of Related Watershed Management, Species Recovery, Water Quality, and Farmland Preservation Plans goals/objectives/benchmarks
 - c. Technical Service Provider(s) – draft description, update on list of providers
3. Continue discussion: key agricultural sectors in Yakima County (30 minutes) - All
Update on meeting with Lisa Grueter, Frank Lyall, and Frank Hendrix
4. Conservation Practices (30 minutes) - From South Yakima Conservation District: Review conservation practices in use with some producers within SYCD.
5. Adjourn

After hours: Review Open Public Meetings Act Video (15 minutes)

The Washington State Conservation Commission believes VSP workgroups fall under the purview of the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). All members of the workgroup are required to receive certain training, which is fulfilled by viewing a 15 minute video. Many have already seen this video as part of other groups they participate in; if anyone has not seen it, please stay after the meeting and we will have the video available for viewing.

Attachments:

1. Initial draft: Chapter 1 description
2. Chart of technical service providers by topic
3. Data from NRCS, SYCD, NYCD on conservation practices
4. Example of Goals , Benchmarks, and Monitoring
5. Update on types of agriculture in Yakima County: will be e-mailed separately

¹ RCW 36.70A.700(2)(a)

Contents of a VSP Work Plan
RCW 36.70A.720 (1)

(1) A watershed group designated by a county under RCW 36.70A.715 must develop a work plan to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:

(a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;

(b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;

(c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks of the work plan;

(d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;

(e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the receipt of funding, are designed to result in (i) the protection of critical area functions and values and (ii) the enhancement of critical area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;

(f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical assistance;

(g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the work plan;

(h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;

(i) Establish baseline monitoring for: (i) Participation activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and projects; (ii) stewardship activities; and (iii) the effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protection and enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;

(j) Conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium;

(k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and

(l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.