

“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
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016
1:00PM – 3:00PM

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

1. Welcome and Introductions (20 minutes) – Facilitator, All
 - a. Dates for November/December meetings
 - b. Update on Yakima Training Center invitation
 - c. Review Outline of VSP Workplan
2. Mapping: Shrub Steppe Habitat and Connectivity (30 minutes) - Project Staff
Discuss how to address the large number of acres shown as affected by this priority habitat
3. Review draft goals, benchmarks, monitoring on Wenas Creek (40 minutes) – All
Based on discussion at the last meeting, the consultant team has prepared this draft to reflect what we think we heard
4. Critical Area Functions, Issues, and Potential VSP Goals (30 minutes) – All
Continue the work on potential goals
5. Adjourn

Attachments:

1. Final meeting notes from September 22 meeting
2. Critical Areas Issues template
3. See e-mail link for additional documents

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.