

☐ Self-reported

☐ Over phone by SCCD

☐ On-site with SCCD assistance

STEWARDSHIP CHECKLIST

Promoting Agriculture Viability and Protecting Critical Areas

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is an optional, incentive-based approach to protecting critical areas while promoting agriculture. This checklist assists in evaluating the goals and benchmarks of the VSP Work Plan and serves as an individual stewardship plan referenced in the VSP law. **The VSP Work Plan aims to achieve protection and enhancement of critical areas through voluntary, incentive based measures by agricultural producers. This means increased flexibility for producers and fewer regulations.** Your time and patience in carefully and accurately filling out this checklist is much appreciated by the VSP Workgroup and Staff.

Provide Location Information



Instructions: Review the definitions of agricultural activities and critical areas. Use online tools to review non-regulatory critical area maps. Visually review potential critical areas on or near your property, such as ponds, streams, wet areas, steep slopes, etc.

1. What basin is your agricultural property located within?

- a. Lower Spokane (WRIA 54) ☐
- b. Little Spokane (WRIA 55) ☐
- c. Middle Lake Roosevelt (WRIA 58) ☐
- d. Colville (WRIA 59) ☐
- e. Kettle (WRIA 60) ☐
- f. Upper Lake Roosevelt (WRIA 61) ☐
- g. Pend Oreille (WRIA 62) ☐

2. Identify potential critical areas intersecting with agricultural activities on your property:

- a. fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas ☐
- b. areas that are inundated or saturated with surface or ground water and support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Swamps, marshes, bogs, or similar areas. ☐
- c. frequently flooded areas ☐
- d. geologically hazardous areas ☐
- e. critical aquifer recharge areas ☐

Note: Checking one or more critical areas that may *potentially* be located on or adjacent to the property does not constitute an official determination of such a feature. It is helpful in filling out the rest of the checklist.

Consult Technical Providers

Contact Technical Advisors to advise you or in order to apply for funding to establish conservation practices.

Lead Technical Assistance Provider: Stevens County Conservation District http://www.co.stevens.wa.us/cons_district/

Supporting Technical Assistance Providers:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>

Washington State University Extension <http://extension.wsu.edu/stevens/>

Stevens County Land Services <http://www.co.stevens.wa.us/landservices/>

This packet is solely intended to assist in the implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program by the Stevens County VSP Workgroup and Stevens County Conservation District. The information disclosed in this document is not applicable outside of the strictly voluntary nature of VSP, and is not to be used in any regulatory capacity whatsoever.

General Conservation Practices that Protect Critical Areas:

The following agricultural practices are commonly applied in Stevens County and protect or enhance at least one of the following critical area functions and values:

- Water Quality
- Hydrology (excess water or insufficient water)
- Soil Health
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat

Please Indicate which practices you already do or are interested in doing.

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Done since 2011	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Visit https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=16204 to view NRCS practice standards.					
Access control to exclude animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area	472	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access road positioned away from habitat areas, water bodies, and water courses	560	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cover Crop	340	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest stand improvement	666	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Herbaceous Weed Control to remove invasive or noxious species.	315	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integrated pest management. Chemicals and methods of chemical application are selected in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and natural resources.	595	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Irrigation water management to improve irrigation efficiency.	449	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutrient Management to control the amount, source, placement, and timing of nutrient applications.	590	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prescribed Grazing to manage vegetation and protect sensitive habitats	528	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Streambank and shoreline protection	580	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree/shrub establishment: for forest products, habitat, energy conservation, erosion control	612	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waste storage facilities that prevent non-point source pollution of waterways from manure and other agricultural wastes.	313	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Watering facilities located away from streams or sensitive habitat areas.	614	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Photo courtesy of SCCD



Access Control
Photo Courtesy of SCCD



Off-channel Watering
Photo Courtesy of SCCD

Agriculture Intersecting with Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas

Definition of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas: Land and waters managed to maintain populations of fish and wildlife species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution over the long term. **Includes:**

- Areas where federal and state listed endangered, threatened and sensitive species have a primary association
- Streams classified as type 1-5 per WAC 222-16-030, administered by DNR.
- Lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by a governmental entity.
- Naturally occurring ponds under 20 acres and their submerged aquatic beds that provide fish and wildlife habitat. Does not include ponds deliberately designed from dry sites such as canals, detention facilities, or farm ponds.

VSP Protection Goal:

At the watershed scale and in relation to agricultural activities, prevent the degradation of fish and wildlife habitat conservation area functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011. FWHCA functions and values to be protected include:

- Water quality
- Habitat
- Hydrological Functions

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Done since 2011	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Restoration and management of rare and declining habitats	643	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riparian Forest Buffer	391	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Streambank and shoreline protection	580	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stream habitat improvement and management	395	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Structures for wildlife, including raptor poles or nest boxes	649	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upland wildlife habitat management	645	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other ideas to meet the goal:					



Riparian Vegetation
Photo Courtesy of SCCD

Stevens County Voluntary Stewardship Program



Stream Habitat Improvement
Photo Courtesy of SCCD

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Agriculture Intersecting with Geologically Hazardous Areas

Definition of Geologically Hazardous Areas: areas that are susceptible to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events. In Stevens County, these include areas with “severe rill” and “inter-rill” erosion hazard, and areas with a 30% or greater slope.

VSP Protection Goal:

At the watershed scale and in relation to agricultural activities, prevent the degradation of geologically hazardous area functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011. GHA functions and values to be protected include:

- Soil Health (potential for erosion and mass movement).

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Done since 2011	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Access control to exclude animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area	472	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access road positioned to control or reduce erosion on steep slopes.	560	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cover Crop on steep slopes.	340	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest stand improvement on steep slopes (30% or greater)	666	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree/shrub establishment on steep slopes.	612	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other ideas to meet the goal:					

Agriculture Intersecting with Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Definition of CARAs: areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, or areas where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of water. There is one Critical Aquifer Recharge Area encompassing roughly 81 square miles in the southeastern portion of Stevens County

VSP Protection Goal:

At the watershed scale and in relation to agricultural activities, prevent the degradation of CARA functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011. CARA functions and values to be protected include:

- Water Quality
- Hydrology (ability to recharge groundwater resources)

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Done since 2011	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Irrigation equipment maintenance including well casings and/ or seals	NA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soil Testing	NA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groundwater Testing	355	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other ideas to meet the goal:					

Agriculture Intersecting with Wetlands

Definition of Wetlands:

Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater supporting a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Includes: Swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas

Excludes: Artificial wetlands per WAC 365-190-030(22)

VSP Critical Area Protection Goals

prevent the degradation of Wetland functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011. Wetland functions and values to be protected include:

- Water Quality
- Hydrology (water storage)
- Habitat

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Done since 2011	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Wetland Creation	658	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetland Enhancement	659	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other ideas to meet the goal:					

Agriculture Intersecting with Frequently Flooded Areas

Definition of Frequently Flooded Areas:

Floodways and associated floodplains that have a one (1%) percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. Frequently Flooded Areas are identified based FEMA on Flood Rate Insurance Maps.

VSP Critical Area Protection Goals:

At the watershed scale and in relation to agricultural activities, prevent the degradation of Frequently Flooded Area functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011. FFA functions and values to be protected include:

- Water Quality
- Hydrology (flood storage and conveyance)
- Soil Health (erosion potential)

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Done since 2011	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Subsurface Drain	606	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	607	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grassed Waterway	412	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintenance and improvement of river channel to reduce flood impacts	NA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other ideas to meet the goal:					

Flooding causes many impacts to agricultural production, including water contamination, damage to crops, loss of livestock, increased susceptibility of livestock to disease, flooded farm machinery, and environmental damage.

Step 3: Monitoring

A technical assistance provider, coordinated by Stevens County Conservation District, will contact you annually about the conservation practices installed. You may request a field visit to obtain advice on improving the effectiveness of the conservation practices.

Ideas for Agriculture Viability Incentives and Outcomes

The VSP is designed to promote the viability of agriculture over the long term and to avoid unnecessary local critical area regulations due to the prevalence of conservation practices undertaken by willing producers. Producers may find cost-matching programs with technical providers (see contact information below).

What incentives could help you achieve your goals for your farm?

Education and Technical Assistance

The Stevens County VSP aims to ensure that adequate education and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in Stevens County.

Do you feel that there is adequate access to educational materials and technical assistance regarding critical areas and agriculture?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If you answered "No", what additional resources do you need?

For Information & Assistance

Lead Technical Assistance Provider: Stevens County Conservation District http://www.co.stevens.wa.us/cons_district/ **Dean Hellie**, 509-684-7579

Critical Area Notes

Use this space to make additional notes about the conditions of any potential critical areas adjacent to your operation. It is best to include a date with each entry.

[illegible]