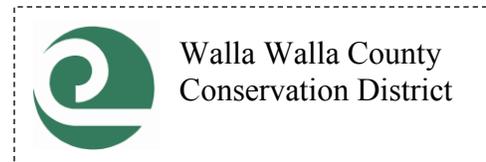


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

Local VSP Work Plan available for informal public comment

Walla Walla County Conservation District invites your comments on VSP work Plan

WALLA WALLA – The local Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Plan is ready for additional community comments. Community members have drafted the plan after more than a year of discussion. Before the plan is finalized and submitted to the state level for review, WWCCD is seeking additional comments. The Work Plan sets forth a strategy to protect both critical areas and the viability of agriculture.

VSP is an alternate approach to Growth Management Regulations and only applies to agriculture lands that have critical areas. VSP was developed to avoid litigation over agriculture use on and adjacent to critical areas. Wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded, critical aquifer recharge, and geologically hazardous areas such as those prone to erosion are considered critical areas. Since wind erosion affects 90% of agricultural land in the county, most farmers and ranchers have at least one critical area on their farm.

The local VSP work plan is available for viewing at <http://www.wwccd.net/programs/voluntary-stewardship-program>. Hard copies will be available at each of the Walla Walla County Rural Libraries. Please send comments via either information.cd@wwccd.net or 509-522-6340 ext. 5. Informal comments will be received until July 5, 2017.

About Walla Walla County Conservation District

WWCCD offers technical and financial assistance to farmers and ranchers in the unincorporated areas of Walla Walla County. We have a range of voluntary services to help people manage and protect the natural resources on working lands. To learn more, visit www.wwccd.net, or call us at 509-522-6340 ext. 5.

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