

November 2020 VSP Newsletter

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ANOTHER FIVE YEAR REPORT TEMPLATE TRAINING WEBINAR: The Commission will host a second training webinar of the VSP five year report template on November 5, 2020 at 1 p.m. We will be sure to record it this time!

The template is intended for county work groups to use for their five year reporting requirements under VSP.

The webinar will assist county work group members, technical service providers, county staff and others who are implementing VSP to understand and use the template to provide the Commission with the information needed for success in the five year reporting process.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please register for VSP Five Year Report Template on Nov 5, 2020 1:00 PM PST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1135407793850022158>

If you have questions or are a person with a disability and need special accommodations, please contact the Conservation Commission at (360) 407-6200.

VSP 5 YEAR REPORT TEMPLATE RELEASE FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION: The Commission is working on the components necessary for the release of the VSP 5 year report template to the remaining 25 VSP counties who are set to submit their five

year VSP reports between November 2020 and June 2021. Those items include:

- A letter to each VSP county instructing them to use the template to submit their five year report. The letter will be sent by regular mail and by email to both the person responsible for VSP at the county, and the service provider (if known to the Commission) who will actually submit the report on behalf of the county work group.
- The 5 year report process [Guide](#), which has been posted on the VSP web page
- The 5 year report template and [instructions](#), which will be emailed to each county contact for VSP. The [instructions](#) have been posted on the VSP web page
- The unique password necessary for each county to access the template

Please contact Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov if you need to identify someone other than the official responsible person at your county who should receive the letter, template, instructions and password so that we can get those components into the right hands for a successful report submittal.

VSP MONITORING FORUM WEBINAR:
Last month the Commission hosted a

VSP Monitoring Forum. Forum topics covered a range of themes from landscape change detection to nutrient and erosion monitoring. Thanks to all of the presenters. If you have questions or feedback please contact Levi Keesecker via email lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov or phone 360-789-3650.

If you missed it, it is available for viewing on the Commission's *VSP Administrator* web page under the "[What's New?](#)" section. A direct link to the recording is [here](#).

JOINT TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING: Due to the ongoing pandemic, and to continue protecting the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, and the public, this meeting will be conducted via online web meeting and teleconference. All members of the public are welcome. If you would like to join us online, please follow the link included in the agenda to receive additional information on how to participate.

The next joint meeting of the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel will be Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 2:30 p.m. Links to join are below:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/BillEller/joint-vsp-tech-panel-and-sac-meeting>

You can also dial in using your

phone.

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3122](tel:+15713173122)

Access Code: 989-109-653

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/989109653>

The agenda and other materials will be posted on the Commission VSP web page.

VSP “MONITORING 101” WEBINAR DECEMBER 8, 2020 AT 9 AM. Please join us for a VSP “Monitoring 101” webinar on Tuesday, December 8th from 9 am – 10:30 am. Topics will include: how to get to your question answered, basic statistics (measurements, sample size, etc.), and simple tools. Key objectives of the VSP “Monitoring 101” webinar are to: provide a basic introduction to monitoring and statistical analysis in the VSP context, and highlight simple tools that could be used as you implement VSP.

If you have questions or comments regarding the webinar, please contact Levi Keesecker by phone at (360) 789-3650 or by email at lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov.

VSP “Monitoring 101” webinar:

Please register for VSP "Monitoring 101" webinar on Dec 8, 2020 9:00 AM PST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4897814538925379340>

CONSERVATION COMMISSION PRESENTATION TO THE NRCS: The Commission provided an update about VSP to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) during its State Technical Advisory Committee meeting on October 22, 2020.

FIVE YEAR REPORT DUE DATES:

COUNTY	5 YEAR REPORT DUE
Kittitas	11.17.20
Mason	11.24.20
Garfield	11.30.20
Asotin	12.14.20
Grant	12.14.20
San Juan	12.21.20
Cowlitz	12.22.20
Pacific	12.22.20
Okanogan	12.28.20
Benton	1.12.21
Skagit	1.19.21
Whitman	1.19.21
Columbia	1.20.21
Yakima	1.21.21
Douglas	1.22.21
Pend Oreille	2.2.21
Franklin	2.24.21
Walla Walla	3.7.21
Stevens	3.10.21
Ferry	3.14.21
Grays Harbor	3.21.21
Lincoln	3.21.21

Lewis	4.18.21
Spokane	4.22.21
Adams	5.23.21

COMMISSION SEEKS ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE SAC: An important part of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is the Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) appointed by the director of the Conservation Commission (Commission).

The SAC is comprised of environmental, agricultural, and county members, and tribal representation is also sought. The SAC serves to advise the director of the Commission on a variety of policy and programmatic aspects of VSP.

The Commission is currently seeking an environmental representative to serve on the SAC. The term is for two years. Meetings are generally held every month or every other month. Members serve as volunteers to help the Commission achieve the goals of VSP, which include protecting critical areas while maintaining agricultural viability.

More information on the SAC can be found at the [Commission’s VSP web page](#). If interested in serving contact Ron Shultz, Director of Policy and Inter-governmental Relations, rsultz@scc.wa.gov or by phone at 360-407-7507.

VSP COUNTY – COMMISSION CONTRACT RETAINAGE AMENDMENT: Each county contract with the Commission for VSP contains a provision for retainage of 10% of the contract amount, subject to certain performance requirements. The Commission has released those funds to each county, so counties will have access to the full amount of funds allocated to them for VSP through June 30, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact Karla Heinitz at 360-407-6212 or by email at kheinitz@scc.wa.gov.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE VSP NEWSLETTER: New subscribers should access this link and choose the subscription for the “*Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)*” under the *Programs and Policy* tab:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WASCC/subscriber/new>.

If you have any questions on how to sign up, please contact Bill Eller (beller@scc.wa.gov) or Laura Johnson (LJohnson@scc.wa.gov) at the Commission.

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