

# October 2021 VSP Newsletter

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- VSP monitoring symposium survey
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- September 29<sup>th</sup> VSP stakeholder listening session wrap-up
- Coastal Northwest Landscape Conservation Mapper –  
\*recorded webinar now available\*  
(covers west side VSP counties only: Mason, Thurston, Lewis, Cowlitz, Pacific, Grays Harbor)
- USGS 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Imagery Summit: Landsat & Society - \*recorded webinar now available\*

## QUARTERLY REPORT DUE

**October 10, 2021:** The [VSP quarterly report](#) (for July 1 – September 30, 2021) is due October 10, 2021. Please use the link above to submit your county report.

**QUARTERLY VSP MONITORING SYMPOSIUMS BEGIN OCTOBER 13, 2021:** The first monitoring symposium is set for Wednesday, October 13, 2021, from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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.

**Please register for the VSP Monitoring Symposium on Oct 13, 2021 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM PDT at:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/786299665767853069>

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

## VSP Monitoring Symposium (Fall) -

**Fall Session Objectives:** the VSP Monitoring Symposium is intended to provide a shared framework for VSP monitoring themes - such as critical area functions and values, stakeholder participation, and the implementation of conservation practices - to support VSP

work groups with monitoring and reporting.

This first symposium will be an opportunity to: (i) learn about forthcoming resources and training related to monitoring within VSP, (ii) discuss the results of the VSP monitoring survey and monitoring needs that county VSP work groups may have, and (iii) connect with staff from each of the Technical Panel-represented agencies.

Please take a moment to fill out the VSP Monitoring Symposium Survey (see link in the current VSP Newsletter) to provide feedback on the themes/topics of most need. More details on the VSP Monitoring Symposium will follow in future communications. We had hoped to conduct the Monitoring Symposium as hybrid in-person/virtual sessions, but may need to move to a virtual-only format due to public health concerns related to COVID-19.

If you have questions or comments, please reach out to Levi Keesecker: [lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov](mailto:lkeesecker@scc.wa.gov) | 360-789-3650

**VSP MONITORING SYMPOSIUM SURVEY:** The Conservation Commission wants to solicit input on the types of training and resources that are considered most critical to meet the unique needs for monitoring and reporting in the VSP. Input received will

help Commission staff craft quarterly monitoring symposium content and other efforts related to VSP monitoring and reporting through June 30, 2023. Please take a moment to fill out the survey by following this link:

<https://www.formstack.com/forms/?4486403-0y2VVt0V7k>

**JOINT TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:** The next joint meeting of the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel will be in November, but the date is not yet determined. The meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. We suggest checking the [Technical Panel meeting web page](#) and [Statewide Advisory Committee meeting web page](#) s for the date. We should have a date certain by the middle of October.

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2021 VSP STAKEHOLDER LISTENING SESSION WRAP-UP:** The Commission held an all-stakeholder VSP listening session on September 29, 2021. The session was focused on the 5YR reporting process, template and database, but we also heard feedback related to the VSP as a whole.

The session was recorded, and will be made available soon on the [Commission's VSP web page](#). Action items from the session will be reviewed by the Commission internally and when finalized, be reported in this newsletter

and posted on the Commission's VSP web page.

#### COASTAL NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION MAPPER -

**\*RECORDED WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE\*** (COVERS WESTSIDE VSP COUNTIES ONLY: MASON, THURSTON, LEWIS, COWLITZ, PACIFIC AND GRAYS HARBOR):

A roll-out webinar for the Coastal Northwest Landscape Conservation Mapper occurred on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This mapping tool was developed by the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative

(<https://www.ctoclc.org/>): "The Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative is a self-directed partnership working to achieve a connected network of functioning, resilient, ecosystems and working lands in the coastal Pacific Northwest."

Applications of the Coastal Northwest Landscape Conservation Mapper including several VSP-related themes, such as mapping collective values and prioritizing management activities based on the spatial distribution of these values (e.g., connectivity, fish and wildlife, productive farms/forest, etc).

A recording of the introduction and overview webinar can be found [here](#).

A link to the online mapping tool can be found [here](#).

USGS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL IMAGERY SUMMIT: LANDSAT & SOCIETY \*RECORDED WEBINAR NOW AVAILABLE\*: During this 3-day virtual summit (Aug. 31 – Sept. 2, 2021) a variety of applications of Landsat data were presented. The Landsat Program is a joint NASA/USGS program that provides space-based (i.e., satellite) data of the Earth, taken over time from the 1970's to the present. You can find presentations and example applications from the recent summit for a variety of VSP-related themes, including:

- Tracking rangeland vegetation establishment and growth
- Western water challenges and the importance of land imaging
- Actual evapotranspiration – Landsat for water use mapping
- Climate adaptation strategies targeting water conservation across the Snohomish River basin
- Land change monitoring, assessment, and projection
- Conserving resilient rangelands for people and wildlife
- Integrating field-based monitoring of amphibians and wetlands with satellite observations
- Vegetation condition monitoring using Landsat time series
- more

A link to the recorded virtual summit can be found [here](#).

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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](mailto:beller@scc.wa.gov)) or Laura Johnson ([LJohnson@scc.wa.gov](mailto:LJohnson@scc.wa.gov)) at the Commission.

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