

November 2021 VSP Newsletter

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- Joint VSP Technical Panel & Statewide Advisory Committee meeting on November 5, 2021 from 1pm-3pm
- The VSP Statewide Advisory Committee meets on November 5, 2021, from 3pm-3:30pm
- Joint VSP Statewide Advisory Committee, Technical Panel and county meetings in 2022 – second Thursday of each month, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- November 6, 2021 VSP presentation at WACD's annual conference
- November 18, 2021 VSP presentation at WSAC annual convention
- September 29th VSP stakeholder listening session recording available
- New web-based tool by the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative helps private landowners and others discover conservation incentive programs
- Reminder on the use of VSP cost share

- Reminder: Implementation budget due to the SCC

FIRST QUARTERLY VSP MONITORING SYMPOSIUM OF OCTOBER 13, 2021 WEBINAR RECORDING AVAILABLE: The first monitoring symposium was held on, October 13, 2021. A recording of that symposium is available on the Commission's [VSP implementation web page](#).

The VSP monitoring symposia are 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 was 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.

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

JOINT TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 5, 2021: The next joint meeting of the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel will be in November, but the date is November 5, 2021, from 1pm-3pm. To attend the virtual meeting, please use the link below:

Joint VSP Statewide Advisory Committee & Technical Panel meeting, Zoom Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85959234722?pwd=RDdlK0liV3pFWndvRjd0WGJSSCtuUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 5923 4722
Passcode: 402459
One tap mobile
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+13462487799,,85959234722#,,,,*402459# US (Houston)
Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago); +1 929 205 6099 US (New York); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
Meeting ID: 859 5923 4722
Passcode: 402459

We suggest checking the [Technical Panel meeting web page](#) and

[Statewide Advisory Committee meeting web page](#) s for the date.

THE VSP STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS ON NOVEMBER 5, 2021, AT 3:00 PM: The VSP Statewide Advisory Committee will meet immediately after the joint VSP meeting with the VSP Technical Panel to discuss San Juan County's adaptive management plan.

The link to join that online meeting is here: **VSP Statewide Advisory Committee meeting with San Juan County - join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82461016918?pwd=NHVOonlyQUcyYy9adGVXeWIRK0xhUT09>

Meeting ID: 824 6101 6918
Passcode: 395630
One tap mobile
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Dial by your location: +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma); +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston); +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose); +1 929 205 6099 US (New York); +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC); +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 824 6101 6918
Passcode: 395630

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

JOINT VSP STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TECHNICAL PANEL, AND COUNTY MEETINGS IN 2022 – SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, FROM 9 A.M. – 12 P.M.: The Commission, after consultation with the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel, has set aside a portion of each month’s joint meeting in 2022 to have a dialogue with each of the 27 VSP counties about VSP implementation.

Each county is invited to participate however they see fit. Examples of participation methods include, but are not limited to

- a conversation with the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel
- a presentation by the county (with or without PowerPoint)
- a tour (virtual or actual) of county VSP projects

Counties are free to attend, or not attend, these meetings, and are free to bring whatever issues they want to bring to the Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee for comment. Issues might include monitoring, data collection, 5YR report data entry, outreach and education, etc.

The time on the agenda for each county will serve as a “check-in” for each county with the Statewide Advisory Committee and Technical Panel as they

prepare their next 5YR report. The schedule below is based on when each county’s next 5YR report is due.

The concept for this dialogue time for each county is that each county would have a dedicated time to meet with the Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee on an on-going basis. The purpose of this meeting is to reinforce the communications, *focused primarily on issues related to the next 5YR report*, between the state agencies on the Technical Panel, counties, county work groups, and technical service providers and the stakeholders represented on the Statewide Advisory Committee.

These meetings wouldn’t replace the interactions between all of those entities at the local county watershed work group level, but to complement it. Some state agencies (WDFW is a good example) use regional staff to engage at the local level, and this scheduled communication wouldn’t replace or supplant that, but is intended to broaden the ability of the entities to coordinate communication with the county watershed work group.

The Commission stresses that the time set aside on each agenda dedicated for each county wouldn’t be the only time that the county work group could come and communicate with the Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee, but each county would receive priority for the timeslot they are

assigned. Other counties would be able to be on the agenda, but their timeslot availability would be subordinate to the dedicated timeslot of the assigned county.

The annual meeting schedule begins in 2022 and is based on the final due date for the next 5YR report (now the 10YR report) in 2025:

County	10YR due date	2022 Pre-10YR meeting	2023 Pre-10YR meeting	2024 Pre-10YR meeting	2025 Pre-10YR meeting
Chelan*	7.20.24				Kittitas only Jan 2025
Thurston*	7.20.24	Jan-22	Jan-23	Jan-24	
Kittitas	11.17.25				
Mason	11.24.25				
Garfield	11.30.25	Feb-22	Feb-23	Feb-24	Feb-25
Asotin	12.14.25				
Grant	12.14.25				
San Juan	12.21.25	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-25
Cowlitz	12.22.25				
Pacific	12.22.25				
Okanogan	12.28.25	Apr-22	Apr-23	Apr-24	Apr-25
Benton	1.12.26				
Skagit	1.19.26				
Whitman	1.19.26	May-22	May-23	May-24	May-25
Columbia	1.20.26				
Yakima	1.21.26				
Douglas	1.22.26	Jun-22	Jun-23	Jun-24	Jun-25
Pend Oreille	2.2.26				
Franklin	2.24.26				
Walla Walla	3.7.26	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jul-24	Jul-25
Stevens	3.10.26				
Ferry	3.14.26				
Grays Harbor	3.21.26	Aug-22	Aug-23	Aug-24	Aug-25
Lincoln	3.21.26				
Lewis	4.18.26				
Spokane	4.22.26	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-25
Adams	5.23.26				

Again, we stress, that this schedule would not replace communications that are on-going between any VSP entities at the local or state level, but to provide a dedicated “check-in” opportunity for any county that wants to make use of it.

Counties and county watershed work groups are always free to contact the Commission’s VSP Coordinator at any time to see if there is room on the monthly joint VSP meetings for the Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee. Subject to availability, any county can come and present any issue they want at that joint meeting, and are encouraged to do so. Contact Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov or by phone at 509-385-7512 if you have questions or want to get on any meeting agenda.

NOVEMBER 6, 2021 VSP PRESENTATION AT WACD’S ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Ron Shultz and Levi Keesecker will present the VSP at the [Washington Association of Conservation District’s \(WACD\) annual conference](#) on Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 9 a.m. (the conference is virtual, and requires a fee to register). We hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 VSP PRESENTATION AT WSAC ANNUAL CONVENTION: Bill Eller and Levi Keesecker will present the VSP at the Washington State Association of Counties’ [2021 County Leaders Conference](#) in Spokane on Thursday, November 18, 2021, from 1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. (the convention is being held in-person and requires a fee to register). We hope to see you there!

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 is available on the [Commission's VSP web page](#). A direct link to the recording is [here](#).

NEW WEB-BASED TOOL BY THE CASCADES TO COAST LANDSCAPE COOPERATIVE HELPS PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AND OTHERS DISCOVER CONSERVATION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: A new web-based tool by the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative to help private landowners and others discover conservation incentive programs.

An informational webinar will occur on Nov. 9th from 9am-10am. [Register Here!](#) More information about the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative can be found here: <https://www.ctoclc.org>

REMINDER ON THE USE OF VSP COST SHARE: If your County workgroup decides to use VSP funding to implement the County's approved plan, here are a couple of reminders.

- The county workgroup will need to approve any cost share

program used in the implementation of VSP.

- [Washington State Conservation Commission cost-share policies](#) would need to be abided by, regardless of who is administering the cost-share program (conservation district or some other implementing entity (such as the county)). Since WSCC funds are being used as the basis for the cost-share funding, WSCC policies apply.
- If a conservation district is implementing the VSP cost-share program on behalf of a county workgroup, and if the county workgroup has not set a rate of reimbursement, or if the county workgroup wants to use the conservation district rate, then the conservation district rate of reimbursement is used.
- If a county is implementing the VSP cost-share program without the assistance of a conservation district, the county must pass a rate of reimbursement resolution ([see the Grant and Contract Procedure Manual](#)).
- If the entity administering the cost-share program and otherwise involved in contracting with landowners for project

implementation using VSP funds has not already been trained in the Conservation Commission cost-share policies and procedures, that entity must be so trained before funds can be used from the Commission. Please contact the Commission staff below to schedule a training.

- VSP projects that are funded using any Commission funds will need to be reported in the five-year report under RCW 36.70A.720 (2) (b) (i) and (c) (i).

REMINDER: IMPLEMENTATION BUDGET DUE TO THE SCC: A reminder to send your VSP Implementation Budget to SCC Contracts Manager Karla Heinitz, kheinitz@scc.wa.gov. The Implementation Budget should be designed to ensure all requirements related to VSP implementation are accounted for during the biennia and that the two-year and five-year reporting requirements will be met.

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.

Bill Eller | beller@scc.wa.gov | 509-385-7512 | Washington State Conservation Commission