



# FERRYCOUNTY VSP BIENNIAL REPORT

2017-2019

Compiled for the Washington State Conservation Commission on  
Behalf of the Ferry County VSP Work Group  
by the Ferry Conservation District



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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
FY	Fiscal Year
ISP	Individual Stewardship Plan
Ferry CD	Ferry Conservation District
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VSP	Voluntary Stewardship Program
Work Group	Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Group
Work Plan	Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan
WSCC	Washington State Conservation Commission

## 1 Introduction

This Report for fiscal years (FY) 2017–2019 documents the status and accomplishments of Ferry County’s Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Plan (Work Plan; Anchor QEA 2018), which was approved by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) in November 2018.

This report documents implementation efforts that have occurred since November 2018, following Work Plan approval. This report also documents ongoing and planned implementation efforts which will be further reported on in future reports to the WSCC.

The Ferry Conservation District (Ferry CD), under direction of the Ferry County VSP Work Group (Work Group), developed this report to provide a periodic review of the effectiveness and accomplishments of the County’s Work Plan in meeting the purpose and intent of VSP (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 36.70A.700(2)).

This report includes the following:

- A summary of actions and accomplishments made by the Work Group in meeting the VSP goals **since Work Plan approval in November 2018.**
- A report on the progress towards meeting the goals identified in the Work Plan as measured in accordance with the Work Plan
- A description of how adaptive management needs are being identified and instituted
- A report of the status of Work Plan implementation including progress towards meeting the protection and enhancement benchmarks

### 1.1 Requirements

This report fulfills the state requirements outlined under RCW 36.70A.720 (1)(j), which states that as a part of Work Plan implementation, the Work Group must “conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium.” The first report for FY 2017–2019 is due no later than August 30, 2019 (WSCC 2018). Per the VSP Policy Advisory #05-18 issued by the WSCC, the report should include a summary of how Work Plan implementation is making progress towards meeting the purpose and intent of VSP (RCW 36.70A.700(2)). As of April 2019, VSP Policy Advisory #05-18 is the only guidance provided by the WSCC on the requirements of the report.

Table 1 provides of the location in this report where information on the status and progress towards meeting the intent of VSP can be found. The numbers in the left column correspond with the elements found in VSP Policy Advisory #05-18.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Progress Towards Meeting VSP Intent**

No.	VSP Intent	Ferry County VSP Biennial Report (FY 2017–2019)
1	The protection and enhancement of critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.1</b> describes outreach to landowners by the Ferry CD that has encouraged participation in stewardship strategies and practices to protect critical areas and promote agricultural viability.</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> describes conservation strategies and practices that have been implemented since Work Plan approval.</li> </ul>
2	The maintenance and improvement of the long- term viability of agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.6</b> describes how implementation efforts will improve agricultural viability.</li> </ul>
3	Reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses	
4	The maximization of the use of voluntary incentive programs to encourage good riparian and ecosystem stewardship as an alternative to historical approaches used to protect critical areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> summarizes projects implemented by landowners since the approval of the Work Plan, which include funding from five different voluntary incentive programs benefiting ecosystem stewardship.</li> </ul>
5	The leveraging of existing resources by relying upon existing work and plans in counties and local watersheds, as well as existing state and federal programs to the maximum extent practicable to achieve program goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> summarizes voluntary incentive programs that provide funding to benefit ecosystem stewardship.</li> <li>• <b>Work Plan Appendix D: Existing and Related Plans, Programs, and Regulations</b> describes available resources, plans, and programs being utilized or available to support VSP implementation. No additional resources have been added since the approval of the Work Plan.</li> </ul>

No.	VSP Intent	Ferry County VSP Biennial Report (FY 2017–2019)
6	Ongoing efforts to encourage and foster a spirit of cooperation and partnership among county, tribal, environmental, and agricultural interests to better assure the program success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.1</b> summarizes the methods the Ferry CD is using to reach out to interested parties and landowners, including public meetings and regular website updates to encourage partnerships in the community.</li> </ul>
7	Ongoing efforts to improve compliance with other laws designed to protect water quality and fish habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.3</b> describes monitoring efforts from the Ferry CD that include the use of data that is also used to determine compliance with existing water quality and fish habitat laws. New, publicly available information collected by the Ferry CD during monitoring will be made available to the appropriate agencies as applicable to assist with their monitoring programs.</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> summarizes projects implemented by landowners since the approval of the Work Plan.</li> </ul>
8	A description of efforts showing how relying upon voluntary stewardship practices as the primary method of protecting critical areas and does not require the cessation of agricultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.6</b> describes how participating in VSP allows landowners to protect and enhance critical area functions while also increasing agricultural viability.</li> </ul>

## **2 Summary of Actions and Accomplishments**

This section includes a summary of activities the County, Ferry CD, and others have implemented or completed that support VSP Work Plan implementation and monitoring since November 2018 when the County's Work Plan was formally approved by the State.

### **2.1 Outreach**

#### **2.1.1 Completed Outreach Activities**

Ferry County has delegated to the Ferry CD responsibility for managing and facilitating the VSP process. Continued public outreach and education is integral to implementing the Work Plan. Each year, Ferry CD has committed to reaching out to 10% of the producers that operate the farms and ranches in the County. County records show that 175 landowners perform agricultural activities on 788 separate parcels of land. The primary agricultural activities in the County are livestock raising and hay production. 132,450 acres of private land is designated timber land. Much of this land is agriculturally significant, since it grows timber for harvest, and it is also used for grazing. Unlike some other counties, there is no firm line between timber lands and farm/ranch lands.

The County is 1,434,878 acres in total area. 605,759 acres (42%) belongs to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. 530,869 acres (37%) is owned by Federal, State or local governments. Just 290,348 acres (20%) is privately owned.

Ferry County presents a unique situation for outreach. No newspaper covers the entire County, and no radio station reaches the whole area. Internet coverage is very inconsistent in the areas outside the County seat, Republic.

Since November 2018, the Ferry CD has conducted VSP outreach through presentation or distribution of VSP outreach materials (Appendix A) at four meetings held by the Ferry County Cattlemen's Association. and the Ferry County Weed Board. The Cattlemen's Association is the only producer group in the County. The lack of other producer groups is another one of our outreach challenges. The primary materials provided at public meetings included the one-page VSP flyer and the more comprehensive VSP Overview & Checklist (Appendix A). As a group, Ferry County producers tend toward independence, and they are skeptical of any efforts to organize them, voluntary or not. Individual Stewardship Plans, even the Voluntary Checklists, have been a difficult commodity to sell.

However, we are making progress. Producers are starting to understand that VSP is a voluntary and non-regulatory process. They are also beginning to understand that working with VSP will be preferable to complying with more strident and restrictive rules associated with GMA.

**Table 2**  
**Public Outreach Meetings Since May 2018**

No.	Date	Meeting	Location	Participants	Notes
1	December 2, 2018	Ferry County Cattlemen	Republic, WA	20	Presentation, VSP flyers and VSP Overview & Checklists distributed.
2	March 13, 2019	Ferry County Weed Board	Republic, WA	12	Presentation, VSP flyers and VSP Overview & Checklists distributed.
3	April 20, 2019	Ferry County Spring Conservation Fair	Republic, WA	125	Presentation on VSP and all VSP materials were distributed.

**2.1.2 Ongoing and Future Outreach Efforts**

VSP success relies on producer participation to implement conservation actions. The implementation budget for each biennium provided to the County includes funding for education, outreach, and technical assistance with activities that include stewardship plan development, reporting, and educational materials (see Table 6-2 in the Work Plan). Ongoing and future outreach and implementation efforts include maintaining regular Work Group meetings, conducting outreach, providing technical assistance, continuing to develop the monitoring and reporting framework, and identifying adaptive management needs. Ongoing and future outreach efforts are summarized as follows:

**Work Group Meetings:** The VSP Work Group has met several times between the approval of the Work Plan (November 2018) and June 2019 to focus on implementation and ongoing outreach activities. Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Ferry CD VSP website.

**Email Updates:** The VSP Coordinator has provided periodic email updates to Work Group members and these emails will continue, with information updates sent out quarterly, at a minimum.

**Informational Forums:** The Ferry CD will invite speakers to provide technical information for practices that impact critical areas.

- Ongoing Individual Stewardship Plan Development:** In the 2019–2021 biennium the VSP Coordinator will be working with each of the Work Group members and others to develop Individual Stewardship Plans (ISPs), which can also act as models for other potentially interested landowners.

- GIS Outreach, Monitoring, and Reporting:** To support ongoing outreach, implementation, and future monitoring and reporting requirements, Ferry CD will improve its GIS capability. We will develop a targeted outreach plan to reach landowners using critical area mapping and historical imagery. These maps will be used to identify landowners within critical areas who can be contacted for site visits.

Beginning in September 2019, VSP flyers will be mailed to producers with follow-up outreach in person or by phone planned as an on-going effort.

Ferry CD will also use GIS to map implemented practices and host data collected as a part of tracking monitoring efforts. See Figure 1 for the Phased VSP Outreach and ISP Development Flow Chart.

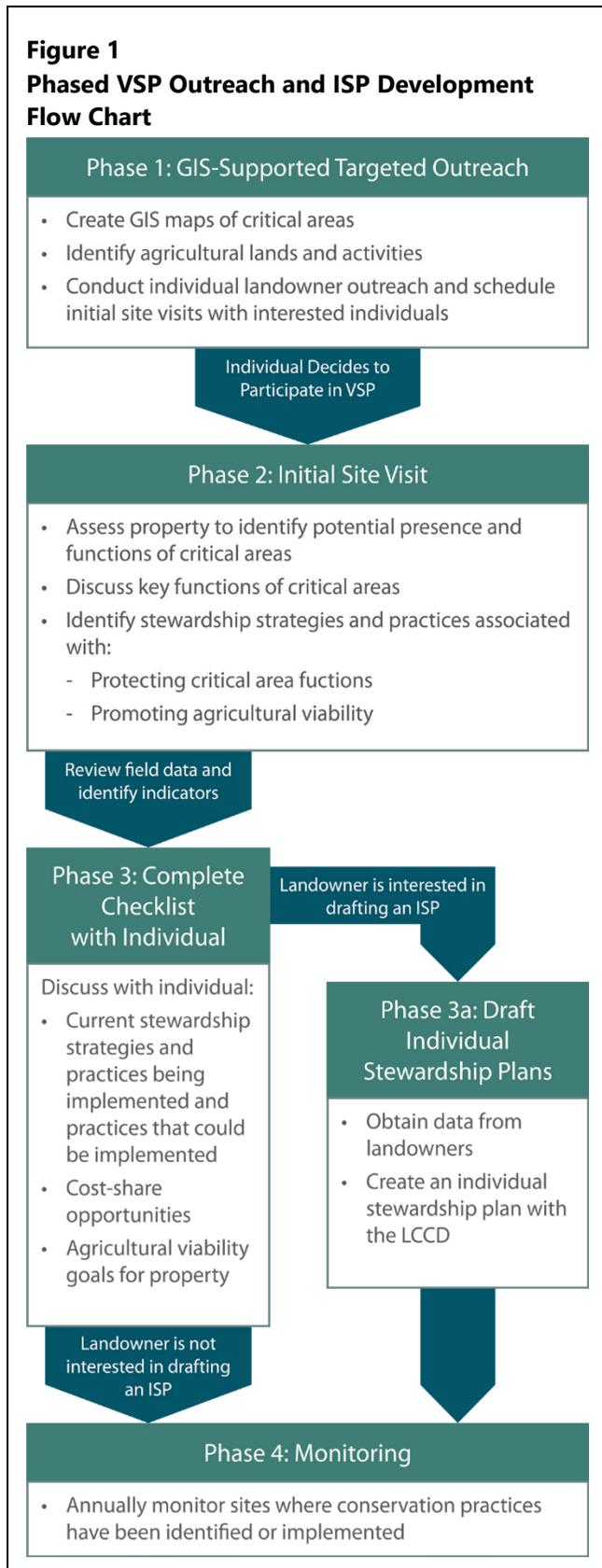


Table 3 provides an update of ongoing and planned outreach activities as described in the Work Plan (Appendix E of the Work Plan).

**Table 3**  
**Status of Public Communication and Outreach Activities**

Type	Completed and Ongoing Activities
Maintain and Update Email List	Ferry CD maintains an email list containing all interested subscribers.
Update Website and Media	Ferry CD created a webpage specifically for VSP and has continually updated the site. All meeting notices and materials as well as documents will continue to be provided on the Ferry CD VSP webpage. Ferry CD also posts announcement and updates on social media, including Facebook.
News and Success Stories Publications	Ferry CD publishes news and success stories on their website. Information about VSP has been and will continue to be included.
VSP Checklist	The VSP Overview & Checklist was included as Appendix F of the VSP Work Plan. This checklist will help facilitate participation in VSP and tracking of currently ongoing conservation strategies and practices. The VSP Checklist may potentially be converted to an online fillable document in the future.
Notifications, Handouts, and Landowner Maps	With GIS support, Ferry CD will be conducting outreach to agricultural landowners who may have acreage that intersects with critical areas. Ferry CD will develop educational handouts outlining common best management practices that protect and/or enhance critical areas. Landowners who request additional information from the Ferry CD will receive these handouts along with site specific maps outlining critical areas on their lands based on County maps. An informational flyer encouraging participation will be sent to landowners.
Individual Stewardship Plans	Ferry CD will work with producers to help them prepare stewardship plans for their farms and support them in implementing these plans. See Figure 1 for the Phased VSP Outreach and ISP Development Flow Chart.
Reporting on Stewardship Strategies and Practices	Ferry CD will work with NRCS and the Farm Service Agency to annually collect information related to ongoing and new practices implemented on individual farms. Additionally, Ferry CD will also work with individual producers to annually collect information on self-funded practices implemented, with associated metrics to use in developing biennial and 5-year reports and performance reviews. Information will be collected during the GIS-supported landowner outreach.
Educational Opportunities	Educational materials focused on particular critical area issues and agricultural practices are available to producers at their convenience. These can be used at booths at fairs, public meetings, or farmers' markets.
Tours	Ferry CD will start a series of annual tours that will be opportunities to share information with producers, partners, and the public.

## 2.2 Conservation Practices

The Ferry County Work Plan was formally approved in November 2018. We were very pleased to complete this first phase of the VSP process. Unfortunately, our timing was not advantageous to pursue implementation. In our area we have a riparian work window from July 15<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program:** VSP funding is allocated to each participating county for implementation to meet the goals and objectives of their work plan.
- **Ferry Conservation District:** Ferry CD allocates resources with the goal of meeting the needs of local landowners to conserve soil, water, and other natural resources.
- **Washington State Department of Ecology:** The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) provides funding for water-quality improvement and protection projects through various grant programs and partnerships with local conservation districts.
- **Washington State Conservation Commission:** The WSCC supports conservation districts through financial and technical assistance and has grant programs for landowners to complete natural resources enhancement projects.

Projects implemented in this biennium had agricultural viability benefits that included producing habitat for beneficial species, protecting against erosion, promoting land fertility, and protecting herd health. The projects included protections for all five critical areas (wetlands, habitat conservation areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, geologically hazardous areas, and frequently flooded areas).

Based on the number and type of projects that have already been completed, Ferry County is on track to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks described in the Work Plan by the 5-year reporting period in 2021. As it is noted in the Work Plan, participation in key stewardship strategies since 2011 has overcome the anticipated reduction in acres. Protection and enhancement objectives for 2021 and 2026 (participation acres) have been met based on reported acres in stewardship activities from 2011 to 2017. A more comprehensive list of implemented stewardship strategies and practices through other publicly funded sources such as NRCS, and privately funded projects will be reported on in the 5-year status report.

The Ferry CD is working to field verify 10% of implemented conservation practice through monitoring and visual recognition annually. The GIS mapping, ISPs, and other outreach practices are incorporating the 10% verification process. Figure 1 shows the phasing Ferry CD intends to use to approach field verification and ISP development with interested landowners, which would include outreach, site visits, and monitoring. The Ferry CD currently conducts field verification following installation of all practices and projects that are facilitated by us. The purpose of field

verification is to confirm that practices have been installed consistent with best management specifications.

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### **2.2.1 Individual Stewardship Plan**

In the fall 2019, Ferry CD will begin an emphasis program to develop ISPs with more agricultural land users.

### **2.3 Monitoring**

Ferry CD is committed to monitoring performance, reporting progress, and implementing adaptive management measures as discussed in Section 5.4 of the Work Plan. Monitoring focuses on measurable benchmarks and indicators described in Section 5 of the Work Plan that are to be informally evaluated every 2 years to support the 5-year performance review. In preparation for data monitoring and indicator analysis for the 5-year report, Ferry CD will use GIS to develop a VSP mapping system to help support an outreach, monitoring, and reporting program. The VSP Coordinator is also committed to monitoring public participation in stewardship strategies and practices every 2 and 5 years. Results shown in Table 4 are consistent with Table 5-9 in the Work Plan.

**Table 4**  
**Producer Participation Monitoring**

<b>Participation Goal:</b> Promote producer participation in voluntary stewardship of agricultural lands and critical areas to meet the protection and/or enhancement benchmarks and protect critical area functions and values at a County- wide watershed level.		
<b>Objectives/Benchmarks</b>	<b>Performance Metric/ Monitoring Method</b>	<b>Biennial Status</b>
Sufficient active participation by commercial and non-commercial agricultural operators (farmers and ranchers) over 10 years that achieves the protection of critical area functions and values at a County- wide watershed level <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of acres reported in key stewardship practices</li> <li>• Number of VSP self-assessment checklists submitted</li> <li>• Sufficient producer participation necessary to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks</li> </ul>	Information on the number of acres with key practices has been compiled and is being evaluated. Producer participation has been on track to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks at the 5-year reporting period.
Passive participation by commercial and non-commercial agricultural operators in VSP stewardship practices is maintained or increased over 10 years on agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and aerial photo evaluation and/or rapid watershed assessment of practices in place</li> <li>• Random sampling of farmers and ranchers in the field by technical assistance providers with willing landowners</li> </ul>	Ferry CD will use GIS methodology for tracking of critical areas and to assist in targeted landowner outreach. Figure 1 demonstrates the process for site visits and technical assistance in 2019.
Technical assistance and outreach are provided to agricultural producers to encourage stewardship practices and VSP participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of outreach and education events</li> <li>• Number of event attendees</li> </ul>	Ferry CD has participated in two public meetings. and the Ferry County Spring Conservation Fair, reaching over 200 attendees since approval of the Work Plan in November 2018. VSP outreach materials were presented at these events.

A list of monitoring indicators included for each critical area function in the Work Plan are used to inform whether protection of baseline conditions is being achieved during the 5-year reporting period. Indicators will also be used to identify trends and focus efforts on high-priority areas. Some indicators being used to support conservation practice monitoring, such as surface and groundwater tracking through Ecology and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat assessments, are also designed to support other environmental compliance laws including water quality standards and fish habitat protection.

#### **2.4 Adaptive Management**

No adaptive management needs have been identified at this time. Ferry County is in the implementation and monitoring stage of VSP and currently is on track to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks by the 5-year reporting period. Adaptive management would be triggered if the 5-year performance review suggests that the VSP program may not be protective of critical area functions existing in 2011. Adaptive management will be applied on an ongoing basis as needed and is not restricted to actions included in biennial or 5-year reports. See Section 6.3 of the Work Plan for discussion on the adaptive management process and thresholds that are to be met by the 5-year performance review.

#### **2.5 Reporting**

The report is intended to be a summary of accomplishments and plans of commitments in the Work Plan since approval of the plan in November 2018. The 5-year performance review will provide a more robust report that specifically documents how the County has met protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks from the Work Plan. The 5-year report will include an analysis of monitoring indicators and an adaptive management plan if the benchmarks are not being met.

As of May 2019, the WSCC is working on the approval of regulations setting out the 2- and 5-year reporting content in more detail in the WAC for review by the State Advisory Committee, with approval as soon as practicable (WSCC 2019).

#### **2.6 Agricultural Viability**

Conservation activities being implemented also sustain agricultural viability, as summarized in Table 5. Many of the cost-share projects planned or completed in this biennium allowed producers to provide ecosystem services while protecting herd health, promoting yield, and protecting against risk of erosion. Continued participation in VSP by landowners and upcoming site visits are expected to result in even more conservation strategies and practices implemented with benefits to agricultural viability through cost-sharing and technical assistance from Ferry CD. Participation by the County in the VSP allows producers to protect critical areas without

discontinuing agricultural activities or converting agricultural land to other uses.

Recent agricultural viability concerns identified by the Work Group include the following:

**2.6.1** Increased nonagricultural ownership of productive farmlands could result in reduced income in the local economy or the conversion of agricultural lands to other uses.

**2.6.2** Increased consolidation of ownership could result in reduced income to the local economy.

**2.6.3** Inaccurate, conflicting, or inconsistent messaging coming to consumers from various information sources about farming/ranching practices and their impact on the environment and wildlife is affecting the economic viability of agriculture. Agricultural producers continue to improve land stewardship practices and apply sustainable practices. Producers, along with those they work with to get products to market, need to improve and be more consistent with messaging about how farmers/ranchers are good stewards of the land and use sustainable practices.

**2.6.4** Sustained low market prices for commodities in recent years are a threat to agricultural viability, as some farms are having to defer land lease payments or extend loan payment periods and are at risk of going out of business or may need to sell multi-generation family farms to maintain economic position.

## **2.7 Spirit of Cooperation**

Since approval of the Work Plan, different agencies have partnered with landowners in Ferry County to implement projects that benefit critical areas and agricultural viability. Additionally, Ferry CD has collaborated, partnered, and contracted with Stevens and Pend Oreille counties on VSP efforts, such as outreach, and presentations. We have continuously updated the website and social media accounts to keep community members informed on different programs and activities that are part of the VSP. Additional information updates will be provided. Implemented projects have include critical area plantings that benefit wildlife habitat on privately owned land without direct intersects with agricultural activities, bridging agricultural and environmental interests.

## References

Anchor QEA, LLC, 2018. *Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship Program Approved Work Plan*. Approved by Washington State Conservation Commission on April 27, 2018. Prepared for Ferry County in cooperation with the Ferry Conservation District. Prepared with assistance from White Bluffs Consulting. November 2018.

WSCC (Washington State Conservation Commission), 2018. VSP Policy Advisory #05-18:

Approved VSP Work Plan Implementation Reporting Requirements & Procedure. June 2018. Available at: <https://scc.wa.gov/vsp-counties-workgroups/>.

WSCC, VSP Newsletter. May 2019. Available at: <https://scc.wa.gov/vsp-newsletters/>.

## Acknowledgements

The Ferry CD would like to thank Lloyd Odell for his contributions to the Voluntary Stewardship Program and for compiling most of this report. His work is greatly appreciated.

## **Appendices**

### **Outreach Materials**

# Agriculture, Water, & Local Control

**YOUR PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED AND NEEDED!**

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is the final step for Ferry County to opt out of the Growth Management Act (GMA). It is about making rules locally to fit local needs.

Please join us on Thursday, October 20th

Meetings are held at @ 6:00pm at the Board of County Commissioners office located at 290 E Tessie Blvd, Republic.

For more information or to RSVP  
Call (509) 775-3473 ext 5



Volunteering to participate means :

- We maintain local control, instead of following State mandated regulations.
- Our priority is to maintain the economic viability of Ferry County agriculture.
- Participation in the program is voluntary.
- The program recognizes the good stewardship of Ferry County's farmers, ranchers and land owners.
- There will be incentives provided to participants upon completion of the program report.



## FERRY COUNTY

# Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

A collaborative process that helps Washington communities ensure healthy landscapes and strong farms today and for the future.

## We need your help to keep the protection of critical areas voluntary.



### What is the VSP?

By law, all counties in Washington must protect environmentally sensitive areas known as “critical areas”. The VSP is optional and incentive-based. Individual producers are not required to participate in the program. However, meeting the county’s goals for participation will help prevent new regulations from being created.

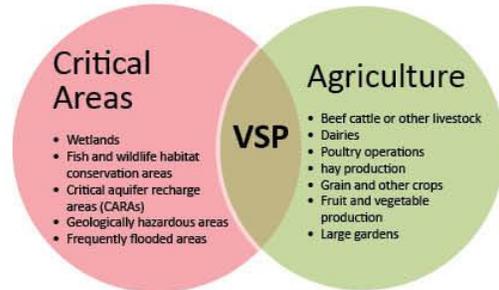
### Where does VSP apply?

VSP only applies to places where agriculture and critical areas overlap (see diagram). If you own or operate land that falls into this category, you can use certain voluntary stewardship practices to help the county meet the goals outlined in the Ferry County VSP work plan. This will prevent new regulations from being created that would affect agricultural producers in the county. Voluntary stewardship you have completed on your own after July 2011 may be able to be counted as working toward the VSP goals. Staff members are available to help interested producers become involved, and to offer technical assistance and potential cost-share funding for implementation of stewardship practices.

### What happens next? How can I get involved?

Local involvement and ideas are crucial to the plan’s success. Landowners who are willing to host pilot projects on their property, who have completed eligible stewardship practices, or who would like more information and resources should contact the Ferry Conservation District:

Lloyd Odell, VSP Coordinator  
(509)775-3473 ext. 104  
lloyd.odell@conservewa.net



### Critical Areas



#### Wetlands

Areas inundated by surface water or groundwater for at least part of the growing season and support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.



#### Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Lands and waters that provide habitat to support fish and wildlife species throughout their life stages.



#### Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Areas that have a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for drinking water, including aquifers vulnerable to contamination.



#### Geologically Hazardous Areas

Areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, and other geological events. Geologic hazards related to agricultural activities are primarily associated with erosion from summer wildfires.

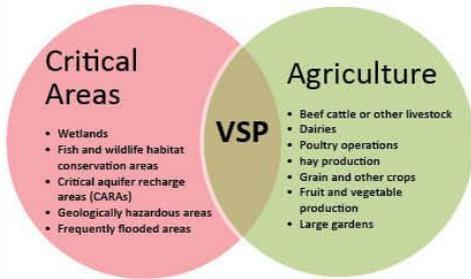


#### Frequently Flooded Areas

Includes floodplains and floodways, and often includes the low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and lakes that are prone to inundation during heavy rains and snowmelt.



## VSP can help you implement conservation on your property.



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#### Geologically Hazardous Areas

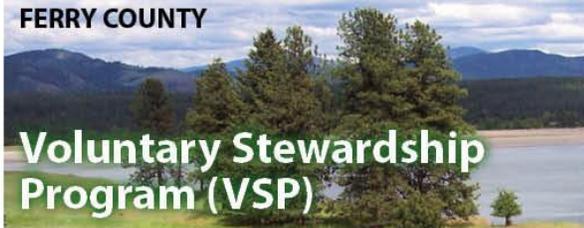
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### FERRY COUNTY



## Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

### How can VSP help you?

The Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship Program is a collaborative process that helps Washington communities ensure healthy landscapes and strong farms today and for the future. If you own or operate agricultural land with critical areas on or near it, you can benefit from this program.

Through the VSP program, the Ferry Conservation District will provide technical and cost-share financial assistance for eligible conservation practices.

### A few examples of assistance offered by VSP:

#### Are you a cattle rancher?

##### VSP can help you:

- Reseed pasture.
- Fence for riparian protection.

#### Do you own timber land and use it for grazing?

##### VSP can help you:

- Manage your understory to balance pasture and forest reproduction.
- Thin/prune for fire protection and forest health.

#### Own horses, sheep, goats, llamas or other animals?

##### VSP can help you:

- Build cross fencing to manage grazing.
- Develop an off-stream watering facility.

#### Do you grow hay or grain, an orchard or large garden?

##### VSP can help you:

- Improve weed management.
- Improve irrigation efficiency (new gaskets, measurement of water use).

To find out about additional eligible conservation practices or to schedule a site visit contact the Ferry Conservation District:

**Lloyd Odell, VSP Coordinator**  
 (509)775-3473 ext. 100  
 lloyd.odell@conserveva.net



FERRY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Washington State Conservation Commission