

*“It is the intent of chapter 360, Laws of 2011 to: (a) Promote plans to protect and enhance critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture in the state of Washington and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses<sup>1</sup>...”*

**AGENDA**  
**Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program**  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016  
1:00PM – 3:00PM

North Yakima Conservation District  
1606 Perry St # C, Yakima, WA 98902

*Primary objective for today's meeting: Continue discussing potential VSP goals and objectives*

1. Welcome and Introductions (10 minutes) – Facilitator, All
2. Updates (20 minutes)
  - a. Training Center invitation – Neil Aaland
  - b. Mapping – Lisa Grueter
3. Information on Steelhead and Sage grouse research (20 minutes) – John Marvin  
*John Marvin will discuss the data he provided prior to the August 25 meeting*
4. Critical Area Functions, Issues, and Potential VSP Goals (85 minutes) – Facilitator, All  
*Continue the discuss begun at the prior meeting: In-depth look at Wenas Creek basin (identified priority). If time permits begin discussion of Lower Yakima Basin.*
  - *What are the key environmental issues in this basin?*
  - *What is the relationship of agriculture to critical areas in this basin?*
  - *What are some potential goals for critical areas protection in the Wenas Creek basin?*
  - *What are some goals for agricultural viability in this basin?*
5. Adjourn

**Attachments:**

1. Draft framework for Wenas Creek Basin Goals discussion
  - a. Please also bring the last version of the Related Plans document from the June 23, 2016 meeting for Agenda Item 4. Critical Area Functions, Issues, and Potential VSP Goals
2. Final meeting notes from August 25 meeting
3. Information provided by John Marvin prior to August 25 meeting
4. Meeting notes from recent VSP Technical Panel/Statewide Advisory Committee meeting (of particular interest is the discussion on public lands)
5. Updated intersect maps and data provided for September 22, 2016 meeting
6. Blank framework form

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 36.70A.700(2)(a)

**Contents of a VSP Work Plan**  
**RCW 36.70A.720 (1)**

(1) A watershed group designated by a county under RCW 36.70A.715 must develop a work plan to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:

(a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;

(b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;

(c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks of the work plan;

(d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;

(e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the receipt of funding, are designed to result in (i) the protection of critical area functions and values and (ii) the enhancement of critical area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;

(f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical assistance;

(g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the work plan;

(h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;

(i) Establish baseline monitoring for: (i) Participation activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and projects; (ii) stewardship activities; and (iii) the effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protection and enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;

(j) 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;

(k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and

(l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.