

December 2017 VSP Newsletter

This is the monthly installment of a Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) informational newsletter. Please sign up to receive the newsletter [here](#). Feedback is welcome - please direct it to [Bill Eller](#).

REGIONAL VSP MEETINGS IN DECEMBER 2017: The Conservation Commission will host two regional VSP meetings this December. Come learn about transitioning from planning to implementation in the VSP at one of the informational sessions.

Two dates and locations (PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION CHANGE TO OLYMPIA FOR THE DECEMBER 7TH MEETING) are being offered (Olympia and Spokane). The agenda for both meetings is the same, so you'll only need to attend one meeting. **Lunch will be provided only for those attendees who registered last month. If you did not register, you are free to attend, but lunch will be on-your-own.**

December 7, 2017 - Olympia, Washington

9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Hotel RL by Red Lion
Pine Room
2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW
Olympia, WA 98502
[Map/Directions](#)

December 13, 2017 - Spokane, Washington

9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Hotel RL by Red Lion
Spokane at the Park
303 W. North River Dr.
Spokane, WA 99201
[Map/Directions](#)

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

WALLA WALLA COUNTY VSP WORK PLAN APPROVED: Walla Walla County's VSP work plan was approved by the Technical Panel on November 20, 2018. VSP work plans can be found on the Commission's VSP web page [here](#). Congratulations to the Walla Walla County work group for all their hard work and effort!

FRANKLIN COUNTY SUBMITS VSP WORK PLAN TO COMMISSION: Franklin County submitted their VSP work plan to the Commission on December 1, 2017. Work plans can be accessed from the Commission's VSP web page [here](#). The public can comment on the work plan for the next 14 days [here](#). The VSP Technical Panel is in the process of reviewing work plans for approval. For Technical Panel meeting details, please see the Technical Panel web page [here](#).

DEADLINES TO SUBMIT VSP WORK PLANS: The VSP statute sets out a number of important deadlines. One of those deadlines is when the VSP work plan must be approved by the Commission. The following list applies to each county that has yet to submit their work plan to the VSP Technical Panel. Please take note of your county deadline and contact [Bill Eller](#) to talk about details of submitting work plans to the Technical Panel. The failure to meet these deadlines could result in the county "failing out" of VSP as per [RCW 36.70A.735](#).

Kittitas must have an approved work plan by November 17, 2018. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than May 17, 2018.

Mason must have an approved work plan by November 24, 2018. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than May 24, 2018.

Garfield must have an approved work plan by November 30, 2018. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than May 30, 2018.

Asotin must have an approved work plan by December 14, 2018. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than June 14, 2018.

Cowlitz must have an approved work plan by December 22, 2018. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than June 22, 2018.

Okanogan must have an approved work plan by December 28, 2018. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than June 28, 2018.

Benton must have an approved work plan by January 12, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than July 12, 2018.

Columbia must have an approved work plan by January 20, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than July 20, 2018.

Douglas must have an approved work plan by January 22, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than July 22, 2018.

Pend Oreille must have an approved work plan by February 2, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than August 2, 2018.

Ferry must have an approved work plan by March 14, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than September 14, 2018.

Grays Harbor must have an approved work plan by March 21, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than September 21, 2018.

Lincoln must have an approved work plan by March 21, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than September 21, 2018.

Lewis must have an approved work plan by April 18, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than October 18, 2018.

Spokane must have an approved work plan by April 22, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than October 22, 2018.

Adams must have an approved work plan by May 23, 2019. Therefore, it must submit its work plan to the Technical Panel no later than November 23, 2018.

SUBMITTAL OF VSP WORK PLANS TO THE COMMISSION: The Commission has set up a schedule for the formal submittal of VSP work plans. Two plans can be reviewing in any given month. Plans must be formally submitted no later than the first of the month in which the review meeting is set for that plan. Counties wishing to formally submit work plans must contact [Bill Eller](#) at the Commission before submitting their work plans so that the plan can be assigned a meeting. [Bill Eller](#) can be reached at 509-385-7512 or by email at beller@scc.wa.gov.

Action by Work Group on Work Plan: Remember, the action the VSP work group needs to take in sending the work plan to the Commission is that the work group should move to submit the work plan to the Commission and VSP Technical Panel, not “approve” the work plan.

Technical Panel Review Process: The Technical Panel typically has at least two meetings during the review process. The first meeting is the first time the Technical Panel has an opportunity to discuss the work plan amongst themselves as they can only talk about the plans amongst themselves during an open public meeting. They also make oral comments on the work plan during that initial meeting. A representative from the submitting work group is asked to attend and make a brief presentation (30 minutes) on the work plan goals and benchmarks. After that initial meeting, the Technical Panel members work to craft written agency comments that are compiled by the Commission and supplied back to the work group that submitted the plan. Then, at the next Technical Panel meeting on the work plan, the Technical Panel considers the work plan in light of the written comments the members made. Sometimes more than two meetings are needed to complete the review process.

SPECIAL NOTE ON SUBMITTING VSP WORK PLANS TO THE COMMISSION: *If the work plan references other materials contained in appendices of the work plan, please remember to submit those additional appendices with your work plan submittal to the Commission. A link in the work plan to other materials contained in additional appendices isn't sufficient - the Technical Panel needs all of the appendices to be submitted with the work plan at the time of submittal.*

If you have any questions about the procedure for submittal of VSP work plans to the Commission, please contact Bill Eller at beller@scc.wa.gov or by phone at 509-385-7512.

VSP TECHNICAL PANEL CHANGE IN MEMBERS: Stacy Polkowske from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has taken a new position with the Department of Ecology, and will no longer be serving alongside Matt Muller on the Technical Panel. Matt Muller will continue to be the WDFW representative on the Technical Panel. We wish Stacy well in her new position with Ecology! The Technical Panel agency member list has been updated and is available [here](#).

VSP BILLING: Billing, reimbursement and vouchering procedures for VSP expenses have been updated. All requests for payment should be emailed to sccgrants@scc.wa.gov. Also, there is a specific A-19 form that needs to be sent in for VSP reimbursements, it can be found on our website at this link: <http://scc.wa.gov/vsp-counties-workgroups/>. For other details of the changes, please see the updated Billing FAQ [here](#) on the [VSP County and work group web page](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Karla Heinitz](#) at the Commission.

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL: The VSP Technical Panel continues to update its meeting schedule. The most complete and up-to-date meeting schedule can always be found on the Technical Panel web page [here](#). All meetings will be held at the Farm Bureau building, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516, unless otherwise noted. Each meeting is also available by webinar. To register for the webinar, please use the links below:

Friday, December 15, 2017, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - [Agenda](#). To register for this webinar, use this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1230273632647930115>

Friday, January 12, 2018, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm - [Agenda](#). To register for this webinar, use this link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7611165121226045185>

Happy Holidays!

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