

## January 2018 VSP Newsletter

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

VSP QUARTERLY REPORT DUE JANUARY 10, 2018: The [VSP quarterly report](#) is due January 10, 2018. The report has been updated so that there are slightly different questions depending on if your county has an approved VSP work plan from the Technical Panel. Please make sure your county has completed the report on time.

REGIONAL VSP MEETINGS IN DECEMBER 2017: The Conservation Commission hosted two regional informational VSP meetings last month. The theme of the meetings was transitioning from planning to VSP implementation. We had 80+ attendees in both the Olympia and Spokane locations. Presentations from the meetings are posted on the [VSP web page](#).

STEVENS COUNTY VSP WORK PLAN APPROVED: Stevens County's VSP work plan was approved by the Technical Panel on December 15, 2017. VSP work plans can be found on the Commission's VSP web page [here](#). Congratulations to the Stevens 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 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](#).

VSP REIMBURSEMENT FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENT: Please remember to submit a receipt, meeting attendee list, **AND a meeting agenda** in order to receive reimbursement for light refreshments as part of a VSP meeting. All requests for payment should be emailed to [sccgrants@scc.wa.gov](mailto:sccgrants@scc.wa.gov). 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 AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: 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. The VSP Statewide Advisory Committee and the Technical Panel will meet jointly at the end of each

month. To register for a webinar, please use the links below:

**Technical Panel meeting: 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>

**Joint Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee meeting: Friday, January 26, 2018, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm - Agenda.** To register for this webinar, use this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7607999627955825921>

**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](#). **Remember - if a county has an earlier “due date” than your county, that county’s submittal of their work plan will take precedence over yours.**

**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](mailto: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.

CRITICAL AREAS MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS - 2018: The Department of Commerce, the Department of Ecology and WDFW will be conducting a series of workshops around the state in early 2018 to provide tools for and get feedback from counties and cities on how to build local and state monitoring and adaptive management programs for protecting critical areas. A Department of Commerce [survey](#) revealed that many local governments don't have systematic ways to follow through on implementation of their permit processes and the on-the-ground results of critical areas regulation. It also showed many have an interest in building adaptive management programs but have limited resources. These workshops will review a new draft chapter in the Critical Areas Handbook, show how state High Resolution Change Detection Data can help local governments, share local approaches, and explore challenges and solutions to implementing such a program. Please see the [project web site](#) for the draft chapter and updates on the workshop details.

Hold the Dates:

**Peninsula Planners Forum**

Jan. 18, 2018, Part I, in Poulsbo

April 19, 2018, Part II, location TBD

**Mount Vernon**

Feb. 5, 2018

**Seattle**

Feb. 27, 2018

**South Sound Planners Forum, Olympia**

March 12, 2018

**Southwest Planners Forum, Vancouver**

April 11, 2018

**Eastern Planners Forum, Moses Lake**

April 25, 2018

For more information, please contact Heather Ballash or Scott Kuhta at the [Department of Commerce](#).

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