

# October 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 OUTREACH TOUR – STEVENS COUNTY: On Saturday, September 8, 2018, the Stevens County VSP work group, together with the Stevens County Conservation District, [sponsored a VSP outreach and education tour](#).

The tour focused on the kinds of voluntary practices that could be installed through the VSP to protect critical areas while maintain agricultural viability.

The tour had over 20 participants and included many new agriculturalists who had no previous contact with the conservation district or voluntary stewardship.

Congratulations to Stevens County and their Conservation District for a highly successful outreach event!



*Stevens County VSP Project Outreach Tour, September 8, 2018 - Streambank Stabilization and Fencing*



*Stevens County VSP Project Outreach Tour, September 8, 2018 - Riparian Planting and Streambank Stabilization*

**VSP QUARTERLY REPORT DUE THIS**

**MONTH:** The [VSP quarterly report](#) is due every quarter as a deliverable in the contract between the Commission and each of the 27 VSP counties. If you are the responsible party for the VSP contract in your county, please remember to set a reminder for yourself to timely submit the quarterly report.

The quarterly report and schedule for submittal can be found on the new [“Implementation”](#) page of the Commission’s VSP web page, under the “Reporting” tab. It can also be found on the [quarterly report form](#) itself.

For your convenience, the remaining quarterly report schedule is reproduced below:

**Period of July 1 – September 30, 2018 – Due October 10, 2018**

Period of October 1 – December 31, 2018 – **Due January 10, 2019**

Period of January 1 – March 31, 2019 – **Due April 10, 2019**

Period of April 1 – June 30, 2019 – **Due July 10, 2019**

ADAMS, COWLITZ, GRAYS HARBOR, LEWIS, OKANOGAN AND PEND OREILLE COUNTY VSP WORK PLANS APPROVED: Adams, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Okanogan county VSP work plans were approved by the Technical Panel on September 17, 2018. Pend Oreille County’s plan was

approved September 28, 2018. VSP work plans can be found on the Commission’s VSP web page [here](#). Congratulations to all of the county work groups for their hard work and effort!

VSP WEB PAGE UPDATE: The Commission has substantially updated its VSP web page. Since most VSP counties have approved work plans, the Commission has eliminated the “Counties and Workgroups” tab on its web page and replaced it with a tab dedicated to [implementation of the work plan](#). There, in one place, you will find information related to VSP implementation: reporting, roles and responsibilities, project management, monitoring, outreach and billing / finances.

UPCOMING JOINT MEETINGS OF THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The VSP Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee continue to update their meeting schedules. The most complete and up-to-date meeting schedule and meeting agendas can always be found on the [Technical Panel web page](#) and the [Statewide Advisory Committee web page](#). All meetings will be held at the Farm Bureau building, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516, unless otherwise noted. The next meeting is set for Friday, October 26, 2018, from 8

am – 11 am at the Farm Bureau building, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516. The meeting is available by webinar and we encourage webinar attendance.

To register for the October 26<sup>th</sup> webinar meeting, please use the link below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2233275630218895619>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**VSP FUNDS USED FOR PROJECT COST-SHARE:** Though the Technical Panel is still working to approve some plans, those counties that have approved VSP work plans are already working on implementation. Some are looking into providing a cost-share program for VSP participants. For a detailed review of how cost-share works in VSP, please reference [this document](#) on our web page.

Remember, anyone implementing VSP and seeking to use VSP funds for cost-share must consult with Commission staff before funds are available. The staff person at the Commission responsible for VSP cost-share is Karla Heinitz. Please contact her by email at [kheinitz@scc.wa.gov](mailto:kheinitz@scc.wa.gov) or by phone at 360-407-6212.

**HOW TO FIND APPROVED COUNTY VSP WORK PLANS:** To find VSP Work Plans that have been submitted to the Commission, please go to the main VSP web page [here](#). Once there, click on the map the county that you are interested in. An informational box will appear that has the link to the county work plan (if it has been received by the Commission) and whether any public comment was received by the Commission on the plan.

**SAVE THE DATE!** VSP REGIONAL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER 2018: The Conservation Commission will host two regional VSP meetings this December focused on work plan implementation.

The dates are Tuesday, December 4, 2018 in Moses Lake and Tuesday, December 11, 2018 in Chehalis. The exact locations are yet to be determined. The agenda for both meetings will be the same, so you'll only need to attend one meeting. Both meetings will run from 9 am – 4 pm. More details will be provided soon.

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