



Thurston Conservation District

"Local solutions to local problems"

Voluntary Stewardship Program: Outreach & Available Incentive Programs

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Thurston County VSP Outreach Objectives

- Seek early participation by growers/producers in developing work plan
- Seek participation in, and understanding of, work plan development by other stakeholders
- Gain responsibility and ownership of the VSP Plan by the agricultural community
- Ensure that growers/producers know about the VSP Work Plan as we near adoption
- Bridge the long standing gap between agricultural producers and resource agencies



Early Outreach to Producers

- Contact with members of the ag community, including supporting agencies, in developing the stakeholder work group
- Thurston CD hosted an informal meeting with those ag producers that agreed to serve on work group
- Held an Ag Producer Listening Session early in planning process
- Production of a VSP information fact sheet
- Dedicated VSP pages on Thurston County and Thurston Conservation District websites



Ongoing Outreach

Beta testing the
Stewardship Plan
on two ag operations



Ongoing Outreach

- Members of Work Group have invited stakeholders to join in the planning process
- As work continues, some stakeholders limited their participation to involvement in a technical subcommittee
- Another Ag Producer Listening Session scheduled for next month



Ongoing Outreach

All stakeholders continue to engage with elected officials, community partners, the ag community and others



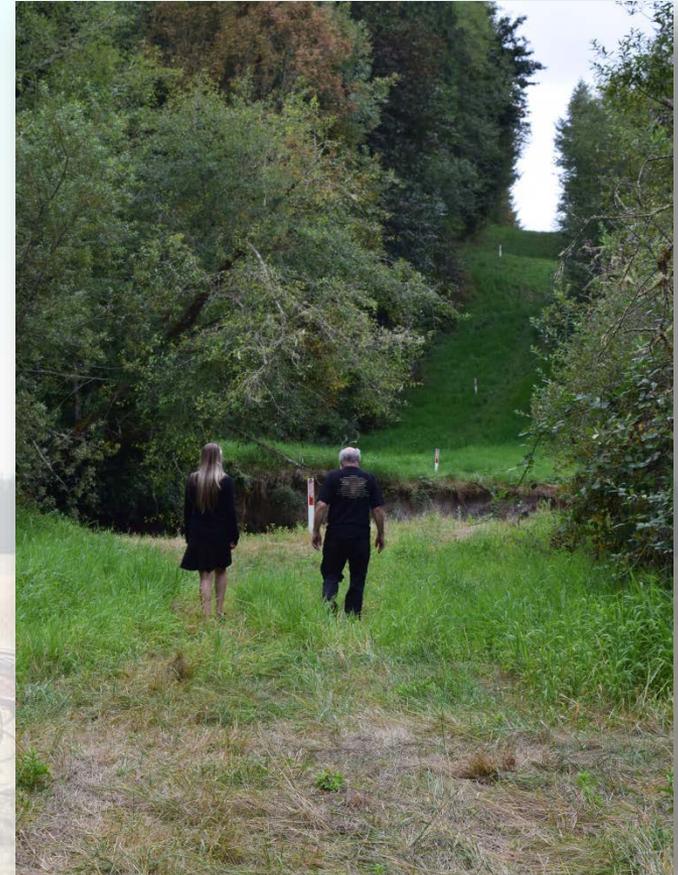
The Future of VSP Outreach

- Direct outreach to growers/producers to inform them of the VSP
- Direct outreach to technical assistance providers
- Outreach between the CD and growers/producers to develop stewardship plans
- Creation of Ag Liaison position to assist producers with permitting and navigating the VSP process



The Future of VSP Outreach

- Educating producers through educational workshops, tours and events
- Direct mailings and newsletter articles
- Repository of print, electronic and website information to increase landowner access



Questions?



Incentive Programs

Conservation District (CD) programs

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- WSCC and Local Cost Share Programs
- Grant funded cost share programs
- Access to free workshops and trainings
- Potential for a certification program
- Land steward recognition
- Access to expert advise



Incentive Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Incentive Programs

Other Agencies that provide financial assistance:

- Farm Service Agency
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Agriculture



For More Information

To learn more about your local Conservation District's Incentive Programs, find your district here:

scc.wa.gov/conservation-district-map/

To learn more about the Natural Resource Conservation Service's incentive programs:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wa/programs/farbill/

