Appendix G-1. Short Form Checklist

BENTON VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
Voluntary Participation & Practices Checklist

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is an optional, incentive-based approach to protecting critical areas while promoting agriculture. This checklist serves as [(1) an introduction to conservation practices – you will be invited to discuss conservation practices with a technical provider who can describe practices and offer cost-share agreements OR 2) a self-certification VSP stewardship plan for producers with additional resources and experience] referenced in the VSP law to help each producer contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the Benton County VSP Work Plan. See WWW. XXX.XXX for more information.

1. Provide Location Information

A. BCD will prepare site-specific maps for each producer. To assist with that service, please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Contact Email:

Site Address: _____

B. What basin is your agricultural property located within?

1. Lower Yakima ☐
2. Rock Glade ☐
3. Alkali-Squilchuck ☐

C. What type of agricultural land use do you have?

4. Irrigated ☐
5. Dryland ☐
6. Rangeland ☐

D. Identify potential critical areas on, or near, property:

1. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas ☐
2. Wetlands ☐
3. Frequently flooded areas ☐
4. Geologically hazardous areas ☐
5. Critical aquifer recharge areas ☐
   a) Groundwater management area? Yes ___ No__

E. If there are fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are one or more of the following mapped:

1. Habitat Concentration Areas ☐
2. Linkage Centrality Cumulative Rating ☐
3. Pinch Point Cumulative Constraint ☐

2. Do you participate in any of the following conservation programs?

a. Global Gap: w ww. sc sglob al ser vic es.co m/g lob alga p - certification	☐	e. Safe Quality Food Institute: ww w.sq fi.co m	☐
b. WSDA Organic System Plan: h tt p ://agr.wa.go v/Foo d An i mal/Orga n ic/	☐	f. Vinewise: h tt p :// ww w.vin e wis e.o rg/ eval /	☐
c. NRCS Conservation Plan: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/	☐	g. Other: _____	☐
d. LIVE Certification: http s://liv ec ertifie d.o rg/stan dard s	☐		

If you checked any of the above conservation programs, please describe what kinds of activities you may have implemented since July 2011 that are related to conservation and protection of critical areas.

Conservation Practices Conservation practices are practical methods of agricultural land management or improvements designed to protect or enhance natural resources – soils, water, air, energy, habitat – while allowing efficient and productive use of the land. Listed in following pages (and illustrated at right) are types of conservation practices you may have implemented or may be interested in applying to your operation. These are just a few ideas – some may be applicable and others not. We are interested in the types of conservation measures you have applied and your thoughts on how they are working for you. There is no right or wrong answer. Each operation is unique and changes over time.

The VSP statute identifies a baseline year of July 22, 2011. Some of the questions ask how much of the measures you've implemented since 2011. Please fill that in if you know those amounts. In addition, for any conservation practices you put in place prior to 2011, please let us know if you do more or less of the practice today.

We would like to ensure that our Work Plan continues to show positive results across our watersheds and that we are credited for all the good things producers do to have a viable agricultural operation, protect critical areas, and steward their land.

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1. CREP: protect highly erodible soils along salmon-bearing streams
2. Fish screen
3. Irrigation efficiencies
4. Grazing management
5. Field borders
6. Nutrient Management

Photos: BCD.org

VSP offers technical assistance and incentives for willing producers for conservation practices that protect and enhance critical areas. The conservation practices also are intended to improve agricultural viability by reducing producer costs and increasing yields and quality in many cases. See contact information for Technical Providers to get assistance, including cost-sharing for conservation practices on your property:

Lead Technical Assistance Providers:

Benton Conservation District h tt p ://ww w.b en to n cd .o rg/

3. Water Efficiencies/Management Practices

Water Efficiencies and Management practices can help enhance on farm irrigation efficiency and distribution, conserve water, save energy, decrease producer's costs, and may improve crop yield and production.

Conservation Practice Examples	I do this	Amount Implemented (since 2011)	If implemented before 2011 do you do more or less of it now?	I'm interested in this	Does not apply
Irrigation water management or improvements such as micro-irrigation, drip, sprinkler, moisture monitoring, pond lining, center pivot low energy precise application, etc.	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Soil and plant moisture monitoring	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Water trust agreement or other water exchange or transfer	☐	(amt)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Water Well for livestock, fire control, wildlife, and other agricultural uses	☐	(no)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Well Water Testing	☐	(no)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐

Are there other Water Efficiencies/Management practices you are implementing? What are they?

Why did you implement these practices?

Have you seen changes from these practices?

Are you doing more or less Water Efficiencies/Management measures since 2011?

4. Land Management and Habitat

Land Management and Habitat practices can promote crop pollination, breakdown of organic matter to provide nutrients for crops, provide contaminant degradation, allow for agricultural pest control, reduce invasive species, and reduce the risk of wildfire. Additionally, practices can reduce erosion and improve water quality.

For example, by fencing off streams and providing off-stream watering, producers can increase drinking water quality, pasture quality, stream bank stability, biodiversity, and wildlife habitats, while reducing disease incidents, water pollution, and erosion.

Conservation Practice Examples	I do this	Amount Implemented (since 2011)	If implemented before 2011 do you do more or less of it now?	I'm interested in this	Does not apply
Fish and fish habitat protection such as fish screens or fencing	☐	(no)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Vegetation management, such as herbaceous weed control or integrated pest management	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Prescribed grazing, including to reduce noxious weeds or invasive plants, manage fuel loads, and address erosion	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Riparian protection and enhancement, such as herbaceous cover, riparian forest buffer, streambank protection	☐	(ac / ft)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Structures for wildlife: Raptor and bat nesting box for predator patrol	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Tree and shrub establishment	☐	(ac / ft)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Watering facility for livestock or wildlife	☐	(no)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Wildlife and pollinator habitat planting	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐

Are there other Land Management and Habitat practices you are implementing?

Why did you implement these practices?

Have you seen changes from these practices?

Are you doing more or less Land Management and Habitat measures since 2011?

5. Soil Health and Erosion Control

Soil Health and Erosion Control practices help maintain agricultural viability for producers through improving soil health and water quality; avoiding soil loss, crusting, high summer temperatures, and moisture loss; and maintaining the land base for agricultural purposes.

Conservation Practice Examples	I do this	Amount Implemented (since 2011)	If implemented before 2011 do you do more or less of it now?	I'm interested in this	Does not apply
Conservation cover or cover crop, for permanent or seasonal cover, and to reduce soil erosion	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Fire wise: wildfire protection to maintain cover/ reduce soil loss	☐		☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Nutrient management to conserve nutrients, minimize pollution	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Mulching to control erosion and conserve soil moisture	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Prescribed grazing, including to reduce erosion and manage fuel loads	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Residue and tillage management	☐	(ac)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐
Vegetative barrier or windbreak, to reduce erosion	☐	(ft)	☐ more ☐ less	☐	☐

Are there other Soil Health and Erosion Control practices you are implementing?

Why did you implement these practices?

Have you seen changes from these practices?

Are you doing more or less Soil Health and Erosion Control measures since 2011?