

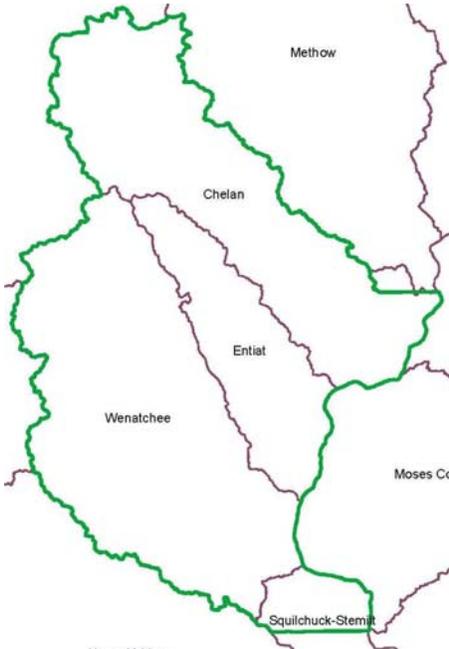
STEWARDSHIP CHECKLIST

Promoting Agriculture Viability and Protecting Critical Areas

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) is an optional, incentive-based approach to protecting critical areas while promoting agriculture. This checklist serves as an individual stewardship plan referenced in the VSP law to help each farmer contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the Chelan County VSP work plan. **Work together with other farmers to promote volunteerism versus additional regulatory controls. This means more certainty and fewer regulations. Fulfill related requirements for farm practices in other programs (e.g. Global GAP and others).** See [project website] for more information.

Step 1: General Location Information

Provide Location Information



1. What basin is your agricultural property located within?
 - a. Chelan
 - b. Entiat
 - c. Wenatchee
 - d. Squilchuck-Stemilt
2. Identify potential critical areas intersecting with agriculture:
Types of potential critical areas on, or near, property:
 - a. fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
 - b. wetlands
 - c. frequently flooded areas
 - d. geologically hazardous areas
 - e. critical aquifer recharge areas (wellheads)

Instructions: Use online tools to review critical area and agriculture maps: [County website or link to VSP-specific maps]. Visually review potential critical areas on or near your property, such as ponds, streams, wetlands, steep slopes, etc.

Note: Checking one or more critical areas that may *potentially* be located on or adjacent to the property does not constitute an official determination of such a feature. It is helpful in filling out the rest of the checklist.

Consider Other Programs that Protect Critical Areas

2. Identify participation in producer programs that address environmental quality (e.g. nutrient management, integrated pest management):
 - a. Global Gap [Good Agricultural Practices]: <http://www.w.w.w.sc.sglo.balservic.es.com/globalgap-certification>
 - b. Safe Quality Food (SQF) Institute: <http://www.w.w.w.sqfi.com/>
 - c. PrimusLabs GAP: <http://www.w.w.w.p.rimuslabsc.com/service/standards/gap.aspx>
 - d. Harmonized GAP: <http://www.w.w.w.sc.sglo.balservic.es.com/harmonized-gap-audit>
 - e. Salmon Safe: <http://www.w.w.w.salmonsafe.org/>
 -
 - f. Other: _____
- Federal and state laws regarding the use and storage of pesticides and standards for water quality continue to apply.

Consult Technical Providers

Contact Technical Advisors to advise you or in order to apply for funding to establish conservation practices.

- Lead Technical Assistance Provider:** Cascadia Conservation District <http://cascadia.cd.org/>
- Supporting Technical Assistance Providers:**
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>
 - Washington State University Extension** <http://county.wsu.edu/chelan-douglas/agriculture/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Chelan County Natural Resources Department** <http://www2.co.chelan.wa.us/nr> (VSP Program Administration)

Step 2: Ideas for Voluntary Practices to Enhance Agriculture Viability and protect Critical Areas

Agriculture Intersecting with Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas

Definition of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas: Land and waters managed to maintain populations of fish and wildlife species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution over the long term within connected habitat blocks and open spaces. **Includes:**

- Ranges and habitat elements where federal and state listed endangered, threatened and sensitive species have a primary association
- Lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, and underground waters

Does not include (when no salmonids are present): Artificial features such as irrigation delivery systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage ditches maintained by a port district or an irrigation district or company (based on RCW 36.70A, WAC 365-190)

VSP Fish and Wildlife Habitat Goals

- Protect fish and wildlife populations and their associated habitats.
- Promote voluntary restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and their associated habitats.

VSP Agriculture Viability Aims:

- Protect orchards and vineyards from wildlife and pest damage.
- Promote economical water, soil, pest, and nutrient management that maximizes produce quality.

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Global Gap	FSMA	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
WILDLIFE HABITAT							
Access control to exclude animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area	472	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brush management to manage or remove plants that are invasive or noxious	314	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation cover to provide permanent vegetative cover	327	AF 7.2 ,CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest stand improvement practices that improve wildlife habitat	666	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fence: browsing animal management or wildlife movement management	382	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hedgerows that provide food, cover, and corridors for wildlife or improve water quality	422	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Structures for wildlife: Raptor and bat nesting box for predator patrol	649	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riparian herbaceous cover or Riparian forest buffer	390, 391	AF 7.2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree/shrub establishment: for forest products, habitat, energy conservation, erosion control	612	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Upland wildlife habitat management	645	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Watering facility for wildlife	614	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife and pollinator habitat planting	327, 422	AF 7.2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fire wise: wildfire protection to maintain cover	CCD	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My ideas to meet the goal: _____				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Global Gap	FSMA	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
FISH HABITAT							
Access road: position away from water bodies and water courses	560			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation cover	327	AF 7.2 ,CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Irrigation canal or lateral*	320	CB 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Irrigation pipeline*	430	CB 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Irrigation system, microirrigation*	441	CB 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Irrigation water management*	449	CB 5	1. Agricultural Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prescribed grazing	528	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riparian herbaceous cover or Riparian forest buffer	390, 391	AF 7.2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonal high tunnel system for crops (soil moisture)	325	CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sprinkler system	442	CB 5		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Streambank and shoreline protection	580	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree/shrub establishment for forest products, habitat, energy conservation, erosion control	612	CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My idea to meet the goal:				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Note: Irrigation practices such as micro irrigation may or may not be appropriate depending on crop/plants irrigated, water quality, design/ location, etc. Consider whether water use appears to be reasonable and beneficial.							

Micro-irrigation



Soveredi

Installation of Solid Set from Hand Lines



Source: NRCS Wenatchee Field Office

Seasonal High Tunnel



Source: NRCS Wenatchee Field Office

Riparian Restoration & Wildlife Exclusion



Source: Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Livestock Holding, Exclusion Fence



Source: Cascadia Conservation District

Raptor Pole with Nesting Box



Source: NRCS Wenatchee Field Office

Agriculture Intersecting with Geologically Hazardous Areas

Definition of Geologically Hazardous Areas: Areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other geological events, where development is not suitable due to public health or safety concerns. (based on RCW 36.70A, WAC 365-190)

VSP Agriculture Viability Aims

- Protect agricultural activities from geologic hazards such as erosion and landslides.

VSP Geologic Hazard Goals: Protect geologic hazard functions and values due to agricultural activities existing as of July 22, 2011. The purposes of Geologic Hazard protection are to:

- Avoid increases in erosion.
- Avoid steep slopes or help to stabilize steep slopes where practical.
- Avoid irrigating unstable slopes.

Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Global Gap	FSMA	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Access road: Locate and build to control or reduce erosion	560		4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation cover: to provide permanent vegetative cover to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve soil quality, etc.	327	AF 7.2 ,CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cover crop: Plant crops between rows of trees, vines, or other row crops for cover and conservation. Cover crops include grasses, legumes, and forbs for seasonal cover and other conservation purposes.	340	AF 7.2 ,CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fuel management: wildfire protection plans to maintain cover/reduce soil loss	See CCD			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest stand improvement	666			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heavy use area protection to stabilize ground surface	561			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mulching to control erosion and conserve soil moisture	484	CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prescribed grazing to reduce erosion and manage fuel loads	528	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tree/shrub establishment for long-term erosion control and water quality improvement	612	CB 3		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vegetative barrier	601	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My ideas to meet objective: _____				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Tree/Shrub Establishment



Tree and shrub planting after 3 - 4 seasons of growth
Source: NRCS Wenatchee Field Office

Replanting after a Fire



Source: NRCS Wenatchee Field Office

Cover Crop



Planting a cover crop between tree rows of forbs and grasses for beneficial pollinators and bugs and erosion control
Source: NRCS Wenatchee Field Office

Agriculture Intersecting with Wetlands

Definition of Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater supporting a prevalence of vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Includes

- Swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas

Excludes Artificial wetlands per WAC 365-190-030(22)

Seek information about **Prior Converted Cropland** for wetlands cleared, drained or manipulated prior to December 23, 1985.

VSP Critical Area Protection Goals

- Protect the ecological and environmental functions of wetlands and protect the public health, safety and welfare benefits provided by wetlands by preventing loss of wetlands.
- Where practical, encourage voluntary enhancing or restoring wetland functions and values.

Possible Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS#	Global Gap	FSMA	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Wetland Creation	658	AF 7.2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetland Enhancement	659	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetland Restoration	657	AF 7.2		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
See Selected Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Measures	314, 382, 472, 560	AF 7.1	4: Domesticated & Wild Animals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My idea to meet the goal: _____				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Agriculture Intersecting with Frequently Flooded Areas

Definition of Frequently Flooded Areas: Lands in the flood plain subject to at least a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year, or within areas subject to flooding due to high groundwater. **Includes** Streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and areas where high groundwater forms ponds on the ground surface (based on RCW 36.70A, WAC 365-190)

VSP Agriculture Viability Aims

- Avoid water contamination, damage to crops, loss of livestock, increased susceptibility of livestock to disease, and damaged farm machinery due to flooding.

VSP Critical Area Protection Objectives:

- Avoid environmental damage due to flooding such as from loss of floodplain storage or due to agricultural chemicals.
- Maintain floodplain capacity.
- Support voluntary floodplain restoration activities such as levee setbacks to improve floodplain functions and support other critical area restoration activities.

Possible Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS #	Global Gap	FSMA	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Avoid permanent changes in floodplain areas such as buildings, roads, and fill. Where alteration of floodplain is necessary, follow flood hazard regulations.	See RCW 86.16 See Chelan County Code Ch. 3.20			<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
See measures to protect wetlands and riparian areas that help flood storage	See Above Checklist Sections	AF 7.1		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My idea to meet the objective: _____				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Flooding causes many impacts to agricultural production, including water contamination, damage to crops, loss of livestock, increased susceptibility of livestock to disease, flooded farm machinery, and environmental damage to and from agricultural chemicals. ~Agriculture: Natural Events and Disasters, <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/tne.d.html>.

Agriculture Intersecting with Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Definition of Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas: Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, including areas where an aquifer that is a source of drinking water is vulnerable to contamination that would affect the potability of the water, or is susceptible to reduced recharge. (based on RCW 36.70A, WAC 365-190)

VSP Critical Area Protection Objectives:

- Protect water quality and water quantity in areas having a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water.

Possible Conservation Practice Examples	NRCS	Global Gap	FSMA	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested
Water well: provide access to a groundwater supply suitable for livestock watering, fire control, wildlife, and other agricultural uses	642		1. Agricultural Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groundwater testing to determine the quality of a groundwater supply	355		1. Agricultural Water	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My idea to meet the objective: _____				<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Step 3: Monitoring

A technical assistance provider, coordinated by the Cascadia Conservation District, will contact you annually about the conservation practices installed. To assist with monitoring, you may be asked to provide additional information. You may request a field visit to obtain advice on improving the effectiveness of the conservation practices.

Ideas for Agriculture Viability Incentives and Outcomes

The VSP is designed to promote the viability of agriculture over the long term and to avoid unnecessary local critical area regulations due to the prevalence of conservation practices undertaken by willing producers. Producers may find cost-matching programs with technical providers (see contact information below).

What incentives could help you achieve your goals for your farm?



For Information & Assistance

Lead Technical Assistance Provider: Cascadia Conservation District <http://cascadiac.org/>, **Name of Contact and Phone Number**

Chelan County Natural Resources Department <http://www2.co.chelan.wa.us/nr/> (**VSP Program Administration**)

