

APPENDIX F-2. YAKIMA VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM Voluntary Participation & Practices Short 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 referenced in the VSP law to help each producer contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the Yakima County VSP Work Plan. For more information:

- North Yakima Conservation District <https://northyakimacd.wordpress.com/>
- South Yakima Conservation District <http://www.sycd.us/>

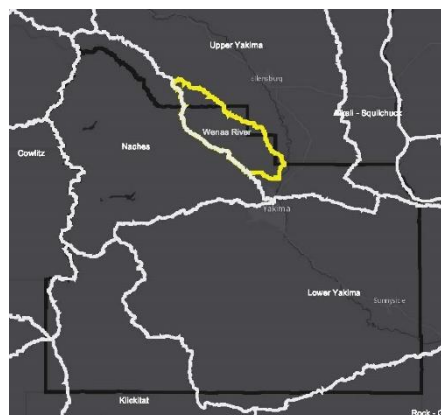
1. Provide Location Information

1. What basin is your agricultural property located within?

- a. Upper Yakima ☐
 - Wenas Creek Basin? Yes ___ No ___
- b. Naches ☐
- c. Lower Yakima ☐
- d. Other: _____ ☐

2a. Identify 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 ☐
 - GWMA Focal Area? Yes ___ No ___



2b. If there are fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas are one or more of the following mapped:

- a. Habitat Concentration Areas ☐
- b. Linkage Centrality Cumulative Rating ☐
- c. Pinch Point Cumulative Constraint ☐

Review critical area and agriculture maps at: www.XXX.XXX for potential critical areas on or near your property, such as ponds, streams, wetlands, steep slopes, etc. VSP is a voluntary and non-regulatory program. 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.

2. Do you participate in the following conservation programs?

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Global Gap: www.scsglobalservices.com/globalgap-certification <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Safe Quality Food Institute: www.sqfi.com <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. WSDA Organic System Plan: http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/ <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Vinewise: http://www.vinewise.org/eval/ <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. NRCS Conservation Plan: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ <input type="checkbox"/> | g. Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. LIVE Certification: https://livecertified.org/standards <input type="checkbox"/> | h. Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> |

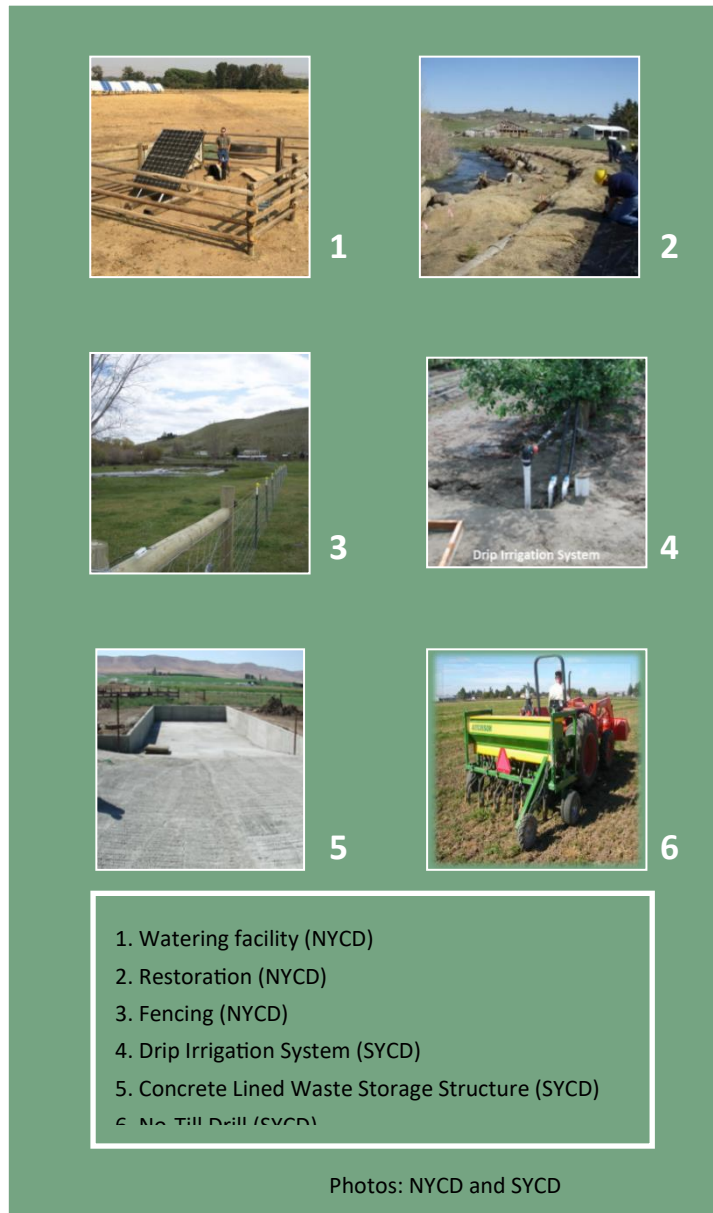
If you checked any of the above conservation programs, please describe what kinds of activities you may have implemented since July 2011 that are related to conservation and protection of critical areas.

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 in 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 about how much of the measures you've implemented. Please fill that in if you know those amounts. You may also let us know if you have done more or less of conservation practices you put in place prior to 2011. We would like to ensure that our Work Plan continues to show positive results across our watersheds and we are credited for all the good things that producers do to have a viable agricultural operation and to protect critical areas and steward their land.

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 of implementing conservation practices on your property:



1

2

3

4

5

6

1. Watering facility (NYCD)
2. Restoration (NYCD)
3. Fencing (NYCD)
4. Drip Irrigation System (SYCD)
5. Concrete Lined Waste Storage Structure (SYCD)
6. No Till Drill (SYCD)

Photos: NYCD and SYCD

Lead Technical Assistance Providers:

- North Yakima Conservation District <https://northyakimacd.wordpress.com/>
- South Yakima Conservation District <http://www.sycd.us/>

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
GPS for field mapping and guiding equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irrigation water management or improvements such as micro-irrigation, drip, sprinkler, moisture monitoring, pond lining, center pivot low energy precise application, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irrigation Pond – manages water and settles silt	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum tillage practices– helps build soil profile and adds soil moisture holding capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organic matter use such as manure or compost to build soil structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil sampling before nutrients are applied to ensure the proper amounts are used	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soil and plant moisture monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water trust agreement or other water exchange or transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>	amt	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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. Water Quality and Livestock Management

Water Quality and Livestock Management measures help protect both surface and ground water regarding nutrients and disease-causing organisms. Storing livestock manure allows producers to spread it when crops can best use the nutrients.

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
Composting Facility, Waste Storage Structure, Concrete Settling Basins, Manure Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>	(no)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fencing	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Underground Outlet	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watering Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	(no)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Lower Yakima Groundwater Management Area best management practices	<input type="checkbox"/>	(no)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there other Water Quality / Livestock Management practices you are implementing?

Why did you implement these practices?

Have you seen changes from these practices?

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

5. 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 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetation management, such as herbaceous weed control or integrated pest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescribed grazing, including to reduce noxious weeds or invasive plants, manage fuel loads, and address erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Riparian protection and enhancement, such as herbaceous cover, riparian forest buffer, streambank protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Structures for wildlife: Raptor and bat nesting box for predator patrol	<input type="checkbox"/>	(no)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree and shrub establishment (includes native bunch grass propagation in shrub-steppe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watering facility for livestock or wildlife (includes rain guzzlers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	(no)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife and pollinator habitat planting	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

6. Soil Health and Erosion Control

Soil Health and Erosion Control 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire wise: wildfire protection to maintain cover/ reduce soil loss	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nutrient management to conserve nutrients, minimize pollution	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mulching to control erosion and conserve soil moisture	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prescribed grazing, including to reduce erosion and manage fuel loads	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Residue and tillage management	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ac)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vegetative barrier or windbreak, to reduce erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	(ft)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

7. Flooding

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/tned.html>.

Conservation Practice Examples	I do this	Amount Implemented (since 2011) (amt)	If implemented before 2011 do you do more or less of it now?	I'm interested in this	Does not apply
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 and See Yakima County Code 16.C regarding flood hazard regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(amt)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
See measures to protect wetlands and riparian areas that help flood storage.	<input type="checkbox"/>	(amt)	<input type="checkbox"/> more <input type="checkbox"/> less	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there measures that disconnect the river or stream from your farm? Including roads?

Do you experience flooding? Is flooding compatible with agricultural operations?

Are there other flood control practices you are implementing?

Why did you implement these practices?

Have you seen changes from these practices?

Please describe your practice(s) including whether you've implemented it since 2011 and the amount you've implemented.