

Resolution 12- 01

A RESOLUTION OPTING-INTO THE RUCKELSHAUS VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH ESHB 1886

WHEREAS, under ESHB 1886, known as the Ruckelshaus Process Bill, a county may elect to "opt-into" the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program*, provided that it do so voluntarily prior to January 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, prior to opting-into the Ruckelshaus Program a county is required to confer with tribes, environmental and agricultural interests in an open and transparent manner consistent with the requirements of ESHB 1886 and provide public notice before opting-into the program; and

WHEREAS, Asotin County Board of Commissioners and planning staff, in cooperation with the Farm Bureau and WA State Conservation Commission, have consulted with all appropriate stakeholders and conducted two public meetings on October 19, 2011 and December 28, 2011 to consider all options in compliance with ESHB 1886 and the requirement to protect critical areas with respect to agricultural activities within unincorporated Asotin County, and has provided notice of public hearing for the purposes of opting into the Voluntary Stewardship Program in the Lewiston Morning Tribune; and

WHEREAS, following said consultation and in consideration of comments taken at the two public meetings, the stakeholder group, including the Farm Bureau, Washington State Conservation Commission and planning division recommends that Asotin County should "opt-into" the Ruckelshaus Voluntary Stewardship Program; and

WHEREAS, it appears to be in the best interest of the public to opt-into the Ruckelshaus Voluntary Stewardship Program; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Asotin County Board of County Commissioners officially elects to opt-into the Ruckelshaus Voluntary Stewardship Program and adopts the following findings:

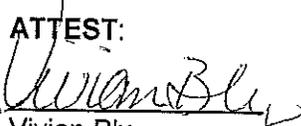
- a. Farming and ranching is vital to the economy of Asotin County and is significant within the Asotin Creek Watershed, and the Grande Ronde River and Snake River Watershed (including smaller tributaries);
- b. The Asotin Creek Watershed, and the Grande Ronde River and Snake River Watershed (including smaller tributaries) provide salmonid habitat and other critical and economically important functions that may be impacted by farming and other activities;
- c. Biological diversity within these watersheds is important to water and habitat quality and viability and may be vulnerable to potential adverse impacts, including agricultural activities;
- d. There is local leadership, including within the local government, local supporting agencies, and stakeholders to make the Voluntary Stewardship Program successful;

- e. Data relevant to the Program is available and there are numerous watershed plans and implementation strategies that can be integrated into the Program;
- f. Technical assistance is available locally as necessary to develop and implement the Program; and
- g. With adequate funding, there is a likelihood of success with a local effort to establish and implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

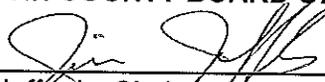
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Asotin County designates the Asotin Creek Watershed, and the Grande Ronde River and Snake River Watershed (including smaller tributaries) as potential priority watersheds, and that by adoption of this resolution Asotin County is eligible for state and/or federal grant-funding to accomplish the intent of the Voluntary Stewardship Program, and that Asotin County will proceed as required under ESHB 1886 to implement the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program once adequate funding is provided by the state.

Adopted this 9th day of January, 2012 at Asotin, Washington.

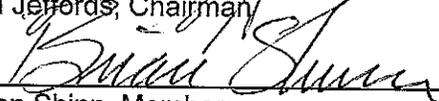
ATTEST:


Vivian Bly
Clerk of the Board

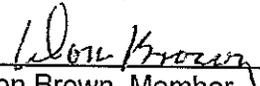
ASOTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Jim Jeffords, Chairman

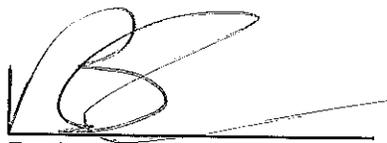


Brian Shinn, Member



Don Brown, Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM



Benjamin Nichols
Prosecuting Attorney
WSBA #23006