

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF KITTITAS
STATE OF WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 2011- 012

AN ORDINANCE ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTARY
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (RCW 36.70A.705)

- WHEREAS:** the Washington State Legislature, through ESHB 1886, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program ("VSP") for protection of critical areas in areas of agricultural activities; and
- WHEREAS:** ESHB 1886, as codified in RCW 36.70A.710, states that "As an alternative to protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities through development regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.060, the legislative authority of a county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program."; and
- WHEREAS:** in order to participate in the VSP, the legislative authority of a county must elect to participate by January 22, 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** prior to electing to participate in the VSP, a county is required to (a) confer with tribes, and environmental and agricultural interests; and (b) provide notice following the public participation and notice provisions of RCW 36.70A.035 to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** Kittitas County created a new VSP webpage, established a public comment email at VoluntaryStewardship@co.kittitas.wa.us, provided public notice in the *Daily Record* and the *Northern Kittitas County Tribune*, emailed the text of the public hearing notice to the County's press release, media, and Kittitas County website "Comprehensive Plan Announcements" and "Development Code Updates" email list, and mailed the public hearing notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations (1,300 postcard notices); and
- WHEREAS:** after due notice, the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on November 30, 2011, to hear testimony and take public comment regarding Kittitas County electing to participate in the VSP; and
- WHEREAS:** on November 30, 2011, the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners deliberated on this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED That the Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners hereby:

1. Elects to have Kittitas County participate in the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*.
2. Identifies the Upper Yakima watershed and the Alkali-Squilchuck watershed for participation in the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*.
3. Nominates the Upper Yakima watershed and the Alkali-Squilchuck Watershed for consideration by the State Conservation Commission as state priority watersheds.
4. Elects to have Kittitas County proceed as required by ESHB 1886, as currently codified in RCW 36.70A, to implement the requirements of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* once the Washington State Legislature provides adequate funding for such activity.

ADOPTED this 30th day of Nov, 2011.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



Paul Jewell, Chairman


Alan Crankovich, Vice-Chairman
Obie O'Brien, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Julie A. Kjorsvik
Neil Caulkins
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney