

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2017

TO: Benton County Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Group

FROM: Lisa Grueter, Principal, BERK Consulting

RE: March 27, 2017 Work Group Meeting

Our focus on the March 27, 2017 meeting is to:

- **Discuss a completion strategy.** Between October 2016 and January 2017, we produced a draft of each chapter and have received your comments (see summary of comments provided with packet).
 - We have integrated the comments and intend to provide a new complete draft.
 - Because we want to continue with participation benchmarks and checklists (essential to the Work Plan) we are waiting to provide the next full draft.
 - At our meeting, we'll talk about how you'd like to review the revised full Draft Work Plan and complete the effort by the end of June 2017.
- We plan to revisit the discussion **agricultural viability** definitions and goals in more detail than in prior meetings. The Work Plan needs to address both critical areas protection and agricultural viability. Since last fall we have spent time on goals and benchmarks regarding the critical areas protection and enhancement, with some attention to agricultural viability in areas of intersect. We have not yet defined the full suite of agricultural viability aims.
- We have revised the **Outreach Chapter** and prepared metrics as requested by the Work Group.
- We have also amended **participation benchmarks** that would become part of the Work Plan (section 7.2 of the Work Plan – updated since January 2017 with producer estimates by basin). We have defined steps to reaching producers and different communication pieces including a draft cover letter, new frequently asked questions piece, and amended “short-form” checklist that responds to Work Group input. We have not amended the long-form checklist yet, and you may reference the long-form draft in your January packet.

We have provided an update of the Section 7.1 critical area goals and benchmarks in track changes, as well as a scan of the WDFW preliminary map of important habitat in the northern county discussed at our last meeting. We intend to pick that discussion up in April 2017.

Thank you again for your time and advice on the Work Plan to make it best fit Benton County conditions and goals.