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**Table 5-1
Wetland Protection and Enhancement Goals**

Goal #1: Protect and/or enhance wetland functions.										
<p>Protection and enhancement: Special emphasis on key functions provided by wetlands.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Key Functions</th> <th>Wetland Functions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Water Quality</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces siltation and erosion • Provides water filtration • Moderates water temperature </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydrology</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stores water to reduce flooding and contributes to base flows </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Habitat</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides aquatic and woody vegetated habitat for fish and wildlife </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Key Functions	Wetland Functions	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces siltation and erosion • Provides water filtration • Moderates water temperature 	Hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stores water to reduce flooding and contributes to base flows 	Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides aquatic and woody vegetated habitat for fish and wildlife
Key Functions	Wetland Functions									
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces siltation and erosion • Provides water filtration • Moderates water temperature 									
Hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stores water to reduce flooding and contributes to base flows 									
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides aquatic and woody vegetated habitat for fish and wildlife 									
<p>Agricultural viability: This goal will be achieved while sustaining agriculture viability through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancillary benefits from implemented stewardship practices (improved soil function/soil preservation, weed management, increased pollinators/beneficial organisms, and increased fertility) • Reducing regulation surprises associated with priority habitat degradation and species decline. • Reducing costs associated with lost ecosystem services (e.g., flood control and water filtration). • Reducing input costs associated with nutrient, pest, and water management. • Financial incentives to offset start-up costs for new practices and infrastructure. 										
Objectives	Key Stewardship Practices	Existing Plans								
Protect and voluntarily enhance acres managed using strategies that provide direct protections to wetlands and wetland buffers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Herbaceous Cover/ Filter Strips • Conservation Cover • Fencing • Access Control/Heavy Use Protection 									
Protect and enhance acres managed using strategies that promote water quality and hydrology functions by reducing erosion and improving water storage and filtration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Crop Rotation • Cover Crop • Mulch Tillage • Direct Seed • Range Planting • Prescribed Grazing 									
Protect and enhance acres managed using strategies that promote water quality and aquatic habitat functions by reducing inputs from runoff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Water • Nutrient Management • Pest Management • Riparian Herbaceous Cover/Filter Strips • Grassed Waterways • Polyacrylamide 									

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**Table 5-2
HCA Protection and Enhancement Goals**

Goal #2: Protect and/or enhance fish and wildlife habitat conservation area functions.		
<p>Protection and enhancement: Special emphasis on key functions provided by fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (HCAs).</p>		
Key Functions	HCA Functions	
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces siltation by stabilization streambanks from riparian vegetation • Provides water filtration • Moderates water temperature by providing shade 	
Hydrology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stores and retains water to reduce flooding and support base flows in streams 	
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces rate of erosion by providing vegetative cover 	
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides spawning, rearing and migratory habitat for fish, and riparian also provides refuge, nesting, and rearing areas for wildlife • Provides aquatic habitat by supplying organic inputs (e.g., leaf fall, insects, and large wood) • Supports sensitive species lifecycles 	
<p>Agricultural viability: This goal will be achieved while sustaining agriculture viability through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing regulation surprises associated with priority habitat degradation and species decline. • Ancillary agriculture benefits from implemented practices (soil conservation, weed management, and pollinator/beneficial organism). • Reducing costs associated with lost ecosystem services (e.g., flood control and water filtration). • Financial incentives to offset start-up costs for new practices and infrastructure. 		
Objectives	Key Stewardship Practices	Existing Plans
Protect and/or enhance acres managed using strategies that promote habitat functions by restoring or creating new habitat structures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stream Habitat and Improvement Management • Riparian Herbaceous Cover • Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats • Tree/Shrub Establishment • Conservation Cover • Upland Wildlife Habitat Management • Range Planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WDFW’s Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Habitats and Species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greater Sage-grouse ○ Shrub-steppe ○ Riparian • WDNR Natural Heritage Program (rare plants and ecosystems)
Protect and/or enhance acres managed using strategies that promote habitat functions by limiting trampling of habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Grazing • Watering Facilities • Fencing • Access Control 	

Grant County VSP Checklist

How can the VSP support operations on your farm or ranch?

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) allows farmers and ranchers to have more flexibility than Grant County's traditional critical area regulations by promoting voluntary stewardship strategies and practices by producers that protect critical areas and maintain and enhance agricultural viability. This VSP checklist is intended to help each producer to voluntarily contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the Grant County VSP Work Plan. **Working together, farmers and ranchers can use volunteer efforts to avoid additional regulatory controls.**

The main objectives of the VSP checklist are to:

- Identify and document existing stewardship practices you have implemented since 2011 (effective date of VSP)
- Identify opportunities to:
 - Maintain or improve existing stewardship practices
 - Implement additional stewardship practices on your land and connect you with technical service providers for implementing these practices
- Encourage high producer participation, through implementation of voluntary stewardship practices, to help ensure the success of VSP. **Failure of the County to meet protection and associated participation goals will trigger the traditional regulatory approach to critical area protection under the County's Critical Areas Ordinance process.**

Stewardship Practices on Your Farm or Ranch

Stewardship practices are broadly defined as any practice, which when implemented, further protects critical areas directly or indirectly, and maintains or improves agricultural viability whether or not they meet a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation practice or other standards.

Stewardship practices may fall under multiple categories; please include each implemented practice **only once**.

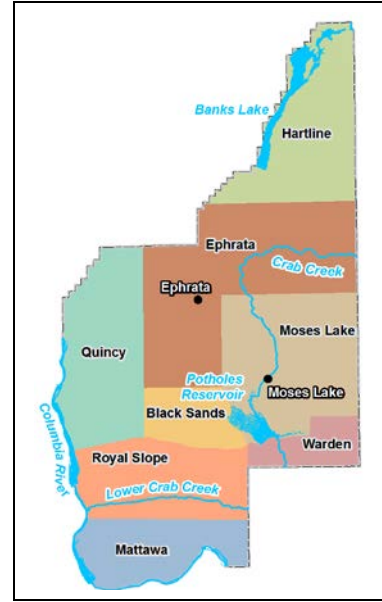
Privacy Note: Stewardship strategies and practices documented through a local government agency, such as the organization that supports the VSP Coordinator or a Conservation District, are generally exempt from disclosure under the state Public Records Act. At the same time, the VSP Work Group requires some level of substantive information to be able to monitor ongoing program effectiveness in meeting VSP requirements and goals and benchmarks, and to support the Work Group's finding that aggregate baseline critical area conditions are being protected.

Information collected by producers using this checklist will be used to quantify, at the County-level, stewardship measures that have been implemented, as well as associated critical area protections and enhancements, and agricultural viability benefits.

General Location (Voluntary information)

If you are inclined to share, what area is your farm or ranch located within?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Moses Lake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ephrata | <input type="checkbox"/> Quincy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hartline | <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Slope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mattawa | <input type="checkbox"/> Warden |



Land Management and Agricultural Viability

What types of land management or agricultural viability concerns do you have on your property?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil composition (organic matter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yield/fertility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil loss (erosion) | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce inputs (e.g., pesticides or fertilizers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moisture management | <input type="checkbox"/> Other(s) – please list: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed management | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pollinator/beneficial organism management | |

Managing Erosion



Wind- and water-induced erosion is a major concern in the County. Residue- and till-management strategies are common practices applied by producers that are beneficial and cost-effective methods of reducing soil erosion.

Irrigation Water Management



Much of the County is irrigated through the Columbia Basin Project. Irrigation water management can conserve water by managing the amount, frequency, and rate of water application to have the greatest efficiency and beneficial effects to soil and water quality.

What stewardship practices are being implemented on your farm or ranch?

Key Stewardship Practices Examples	I do this	I'm interested in this	Does not apply	Not interested	Average units/year (acres/feet/other)
Residue and Tillage Management					
Mulch Till	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Reduced Till	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
No Till/Direct Seed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other(s): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Chemical and Nutrient Management					
Pest Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Nutrient Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other(s): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Water and Filtration Management					
Irrigation Water Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Sprinkler System	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Grassed Waterways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Filter Strips	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other(s): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Range Management					
Prescribed Grazing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Range Planting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Stock Watering Facilities/Wells	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other(s): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Soil Management					
Cover Crop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Conservation Crop Rotation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Polyacrylamides	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other(s): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Habitat Management					
Conservation Cover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Tree/Shrub Establishment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Corner Habitat Protection and Enhancement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Fence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Other(s): _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Additional Information and Assistance

If you have any questions or would like more information on how to get involved, contact the VSP Coordinator or visit the VSP website at <http://www.columbiabasin cds.org/vsp>. Critical areas exist throughout the County. You can direct questions about the presence of critical areas on your property or any questions on how to get involved to the Grant County VSP Coordinator.

Grant County VSP Coordinator:

Marie Lotz
Grant County Conservation District
1107 South Juniper Drive
Moses Lake, Washington 98837
509-765-9618

Other Resources:

- Washington Cattlemen's Association: <http://www.washingtoncattlemen.org/>
- Washington Association of Wheat Growers: <http://www.wawg.org/>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome>
- Washington State University Extension: <http://extension.wsu.edu/>