

DRAFT



August 2019  
Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program

---

## Biennial Report: 2017–2019

**Work Group Review Draft:** 08/14/2019

**Approved for Submittal:**

**WSCC Review Draft:**

DRAFT

August 2019  
Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program

## Biennial Report: 2017–2019

Prepared for  
Pend Oreille County and the Washington  
State Conservation Commission

Prepared by  
Pend Oreille Conservation District and  
Pend Oreille County VSP Work Group  
Anchor QEA, LLC  
White Bluffs Consulting

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Requirements.....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Summary of Actions and Accomplishments .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Outreach .....	4
2.1.1	Completed Outreach Activities .....	4
2.1.2	Marketing and Direct Landowner Outreach .....	5
2.1.3	Ongoing and Future Outreach Efforts.....	6
2.2	Conservation Practices .....	9
2.2.1	Individual Stewardship Plans .....	10
2.3	Monitoring .....	12
2.4	Adaptive Management .....	12
2.5	Reporting.....	13
2.6	Agricultural Viability.....	14
2.7	Spirit of Cooperation .....	14
<b>3</b>	<b>Voluntary Stewardship Program Successes .....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1	Forest Health Improvements .....	15
3.2	Exclusion Fencing of Waterway .....	16
3.3	Riparian Plantings .....	17
<b>4</b>	<b>References .....</b>	<b>18</b>

## TABLES

Table 1	Summary of Progress Towards Meeting VSP Intent .....	2
Table 2	Public Outreach Meetings Since October 2018.....	5
Table 3	Publications and Direct Distribution Efforts Since October 2018.....	6
Table 4	Public Engagement and Outreach Efforts .....	8
Table 5	Examples of Projects Implemented Since Work Plan Approval (October 2018) .....	11
Table 6	Producer Participation Monitoring.....	13

## APPENDICES

Appendix A	Outreach Materials
------------	--------------------

## ABBREVIATIONS

Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
FY	fiscal year
ISP	Individual Stewardship Plan
POCD	Pend Oreille Conservation District
PUD	Pend Oreille Public Utilities District
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
report	Biennial Report: 2017–2019
VSP	Voluntary Stewardship Program
Work Group	Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Group
Work Plan	Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan
WSCC	Washington State Conservation Commission

# 1 Introduction

This Biennial Report (report) for fiscal years (FY) 2017–2019 documents the status and accomplishments of Pend Oreille County’s Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) Work Plan (Work Plan; White Bluffs Consulting 2018) implementation, which was approved by the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) in October 2018<sup>1</sup>. This report only summarizes implementation efforts that have occurred since the Work Plan was approved. This report also describes ongoing and planned implementation efforts which will be documented in future reports to the WSCC.

The Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD), under direction of the Pend Oreille County VSP Work Group (Work Group), developed this report to provide a periodic review of the effectiveness and accomplishments of the County’s Work Plan in meeting the purpose and intent of VSP (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 36.70A.700(2)).

This report includes the following:

- A summary of actions and accomplishments by the Work Group in meeting the VSP goals **since Work Plan approval in October 2018**
- A report on the progress towards meeting the goals identified in the Work Plan
- A description of how adaptive management needs are being identified and instituted
- A report of the status of Work Plan implementation including progress towards meeting the protection and enhancement benchmarks

## 1.1 Requirements

This report fulfills the state requirements outlined under RCW 36.70A.720 (1)(j), which states that as a part of Work Plan implementation, the Work Group must “conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium.” The first report for FY 2017–2019 is due no later than August 30, 2019 (WSCC 2018).

Per the VSP Policy Advisory #05-18 issued by the WSCC, the report should include a summary of how Work Plan implementation is making progress towards meeting the purpose and intent of VSP (RCW 36.70A.700(2)). As of April 2019, VSP Policy Advisory #05-18 is the only guidance provided by the WSCC on the requirements of the report.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Pend Oreille County VSP Work Plan was approved by the Washington State Conservation Commission on September 28, 2018. The approved version of the Work Plan was issued in October 2018.

Table 1 provides of the location in this report where information on the status and progress towards meeting the intent of VSP can be found. The numbers in the left column correspond with the elements found in VSP Policy Advisory #05-18.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Progress Towards Meeting VSP Intent**

No.	VSP Intent	Pend Oreille County VSP Biennial Report (FY 2017–2019)
1	The protection and enhancement of critical areas within the area where agricultural activities are conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.1</b> describes outreach to landowners by the POCD that has encouraged participation in conservation practices to protect critical areas and promote agricultural viability.</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> describes conservation practices that have been implemented since Work Plan approval.</li> <li>• <b>Table 5</b> summarizes conservation practices implemented since Work Plan approval.</li> </ul>
2	The maintenance and improvement of the long-term viability of agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.6</b> describes how implementation efforts have improved agricultural viability.</li> </ul>
3	Reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Table 5</b> describes conservation practices that have been implemented since Work Plan approval that have a beneficial effect on agricultural viability.</li> <li>• <b>Tables 2, 3, and 4</b> summarize outreach efforts from the POCD and participation by landowners to implement conservation practices that benefit agricultural viability.</li> </ul>
4	The maximization of the use of voluntary incentive programs to encourage good riparian and ecosystem stewardship as an alternative to historical approaches used to protect critical areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> summarizes projects implemented by landowners since the approval of the Work Plan, which include funding from five different voluntary incentive programs benefiting ecosystem stewardship, including VSP.</li> </ul>
5	The leveraging of existing resources by relying upon existing work and plans in counties and local watersheds, as well as existing state and federal programs to the maximum extent practicable to achieve program goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> summarizes voluntary incentive programs that provide funding to benefit ecosystem stewardship.</li> <li>• <b>Work Plan Appendix E: Existing and Related Plans, Programs, and Regulations</b> describes available resources, plans, and programs being utilized or available to support VSP implementation. No additional resources have been added since the approval of the Work Plan.</li> </ul>
6	Ongoing efforts to encourage and foster a spirit of cooperation and partnership among county, tribal, environmental, and agricultural interests to better assure the program success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.1</b> summarizes the methods the POCD is using to reach out to interested parties and landowners, including public meetings and regular website updates to encourage partnerships in the community.</li> </ul>

No.	VSP Intent	Pend Oreille County VSP Biennial Report (FY 2017–2019)
7	Ongoing efforts to improve compliance with other laws designed to protect water quality and fish habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 2.3</b> describes monitoring efforts from the POCD that include the use of data that is also used to determine compliance with existing water quality and fish habitat laws. New, publicly available information collected by the POCD during monitoring will be made available to the appropriate agencies as applicable to assist with their monitoring programs.</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.2</b> summarizes projects implemented by landowners since the approval of the Work Plan.</li> </ul>
8	A description of efforts showing how relying upon voluntary stewardship practices as the primary method of protecting critical areas and does not require the cessation of agricultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Table 4</b> demonstrates that based on efforts since Work Plan approval, Pend Oreille County is on track to meet goals and benchmarks, indicating successful implementation of VSP. This will be further supported and verified through continued monitoring and implementation efforts that will be captured in the 5-year report.</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.6</b> describes how participating in VSP allows landowners to protect and enhance critical area functions while also increasing agricultural viability.</li> </ul>

## 2 Summary of Actions and Accomplishments

This section includes a summary of activities the County, POCD, and others have implemented or completed that support VSP Work Plan implementation and monitoring since October 2018 when the County's Work Plan was formally approved by the State.

### 2.1 Outreach

#### 2.1.1 *Completed Outreach Activities*

The Pend Oreille VSP work group has given POCD responsibility for managing and facilitating the VSP implementation process. Continued public outreach and education is integral to implementing the Work Plan. Each year, the POCD is working diligently to reach out to 10% of the producers that operate the approximately 288 farms in the County, consistent with the Work Plan. Outreach completed during development of the Work Plan is summarized in the Work Plan Appendix B.

Since October 2018, POCD has conducted VSP outreach through presentations at local inter-agency workshops, community gatherings, and regular work group meetings (Table 2). POCD staff distributed outreach materials to at least 120 participants at a workshop held by the Pend Oreille County Weed Board on March 19, 2019. The primary materials provided at this workshop included the one-page VSP flyer, five critical area handouts, the VSP Overview and Checklist, and the Individual Stewardship Plan (ISP) template (Appendix A).

On June 22, 2019, POCD set up a booth at the Newport Rodeo. Approximately 12 producers were reached at this meeting, as summarized in Table 2. The VSP flyers, critical area handouts, and the VSP Overview and Checklist were distributed at this event.



**Table 2**  
**Public Outreach Meetings Since October 2018**

No.	Date	Meeting	Location	Participants	Notes
1	2/08/19	VSP Work Group Meeting	Newport, WA	10	Public VSP Work Group meeting to discuss progress and plan
2	3/9/19	Neighborhood Cost Share Noxious Weed Workshop	Usk, WA	120	VSP presentation and distribution of outreach materials
3	3/28/19	VSP Work Group Meeting	Newport, WA	10	Public VSP Work Group meeting held to discuss plan, procedures, and progress
4	4/25/19	VSP Work Group Meeting	Newport WA	5	Public VSP Work Group meeting held to discuss plan, procedures, and progress
5	6/22/19	Newport Rodeo	Newport, WA	12	VSP flyers and VSP Overview and Checklists were distributed
6	6/27/19	VSP Work Group Meeting	Newport, WA	6	Public VSP Work Group meeting held to discuss plan, budget implementation, procedures, and progress

### *2.1.2 Marketing and Direct Landowner Outreach*

POCD has created several printed publications and used other methods to reach out to landowners directly. In February 2019, an article describing POCD's efforts on the VSP was published in the Newport Miner Newspaper. In May 2019, a second VSP advertisement was placed in the Newport Miner Newspaper followed by another article to raise awareness on the Pend Oreille County VSP. Three VSP postcards were created and sent out to identified agriculture producers approximately every 5 to 6 weeks. Overall, VSP materials were distributed to approximately 1,740 landowners as described in Table 3.

**Table 3**  
**Publications and Direct Distribution Efforts Since October 2018**

No.	Date	Meeting/ Distribution Type	Location	Participants	Notes
1	1/30/19	Advertisement	Newport Miner Newspaper	Multiple	A 4x10 advertisement was placed in Newport Miner providing general information about VSP
2	2/8/19	Newsletter	Email and Mailing List	202	A collaborative newsletter with the Pend Oreille County Weed Board was distributed with VSP informational highlights and contact list
3	2/11/19	Postcards	Ag producer mailing list	288	Postcards were sent to identified producers owning 10 acres or more in Pend Oreille County
4	4/3/19	Postcards	Ag producer mailing list	500	500 postcards were sent to identified producers, including smaller acreage operations, in Pend Oreille County
5	5/15/19	Postcards	Ag Producer Mailing List	750	750 postcards were sent to identified producers, including smaller acreage operations and larger residential parcels with potential agricultural activities, in Pend Oreille County
6	5/22/19	Article	Newport Miner Newspaper	Multiple	An article containing program details, progress, and information was published in the newspaper

### 2.1.3 Ongoing and Future Outreach Efforts

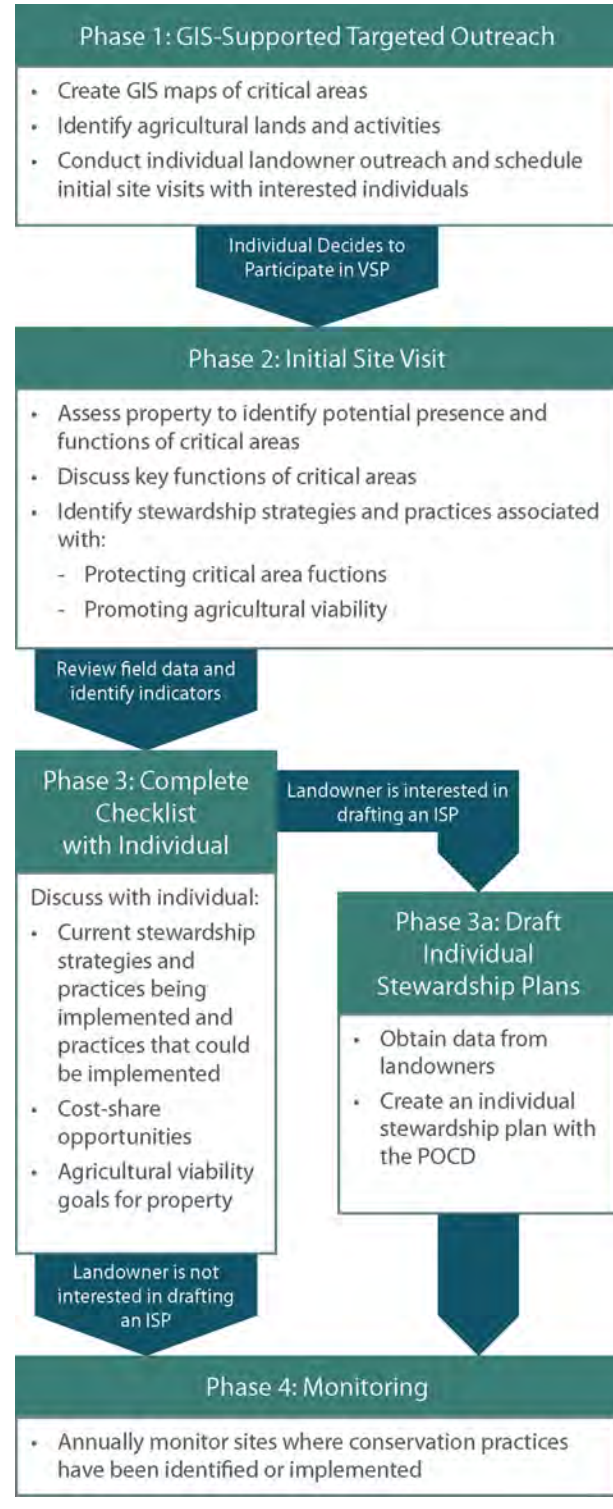
VSP success relies on producer participation to implement conservation practices. The implementation budget for each biennium provided to the County includes funding for education, outreach, and technical assistance with activities such as stewardship plan development, reporting, and educational materials (see Table 6-1 in the Work Plan). Ongoing and future outreach and implementation efforts include maintaining regular Work Group meetings, conducting outreach, providing technical assistance, continuing to develop the monitoring a reporting framework, and identifying adaptive management needs.

Ongoing and future outreach efforts are summarized as follows and in Table 4:

- **Pend Oreille County Aquatic Workshop:** On August 9, 2019, a VSP presentation and booth will be set up to distribute flyers and checklists.
- **Pend Oreille County Fair:** On August 15 through 17, VSP booth and employee will be set up to distribute flyers, checklist and engage interested participants.

- **YouTube Videos:** Informational videos will be made and published online via YouTube or similar website to provide a visual aid to the greater public regarding VSP as requested by the Work Group.
- **Work Group Meetings:** The VSP Work Group has met several times between the approval of the Work Plan to focus on implementation and ongoing outreach activities. Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the POCD VSP website<sup>2</sup>.
- **Email Updates:** The VSP Coordinator has provided periodic email updates to Work Group members and these emails will continue, with information updates sent out quarterly, at a minimum.
- **Ongoing ISP Development:** In the 2019–2021 biennium the VSP Coordinator will be working with each of the Work Group members and others to develop ISPs, which can also act as models for other potentially interested landowners. See Figure 1 for the Phased VSP Outreach and ISP Development Flow Chart.
- **GIS Outreach, Monitoring, and Reporting:** To support ongoing outreach, implementation, and future monitoring and reporting requirements, POCD hired a Natural Resource Planner with extensive GIS experience. This individual is

**Figure 1**  
**Phased VSP Outreach and ISP Development Flow Chart**



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.pocd.org/voluntary-stewardship-program>

developing a GIS monitoring program and implementing a targeted outreach plan to landowners using critical area mapping and historical imagery. These maps will be used to identify landowners within critical areas who can be contacted for site visits.

**Table 4**  
**Public Engagement and Outreach Efforts**

Type	Completed and Ongoing Activities
Maintain and Update Email List	POCD maintains an email list containing all interested subscribers from the POCD website. Anyone may subscribe to the email list from the POCD website: <a href="https://www.pocd.org">https://www.pocd.org</a>
Update Website and Media	POCD created a webpage specifically for the VSP and has continually updated the site. All meeting notices and materials as well as documents will continue to be provided on the POCD VSP webpage. POCD also posts announcement and updates on social media, including Facebook. The website can be found <a href="https://www.pocd.org/voluntary-stewardship-program">https://www.pocd.org/voluntary-stewardship-program</a>
News and Success Stories Publications	POCD publishes news and success stories on their website. Information about VSP has been and will continue to be included on the website.
VSP Checklist	The VSP Overview and Checklist was included in VSP Work Plan Appendix E. This checklist helps facilitate participation in VSP and tracking of currently ongoing conservation practices. The checklist may potentially be converted to an online fillable document in the future.
Notifications, Handouts, and Landowner Maps	With GIS support, POCD will be conducting outreach to agricultural landowners who may have acreage that intersects with critical areas. POCD has developed educational handouts outlining common best management practices that protect and/or enhance critical areas. Landowners who request additional information from the POCD will receive these handouts along with site specific maps outlining critical areas on their lands based on County maps. Three informational postcards were also developed and sent to landowners encouraging participation in VSP.
Individual Stewardship Plans	POCD will work with producers to help them prepare stewardship plans for their farms and support them in implementing these plans. See Figure 1 for the Phased VSP Outreach and ISP Development Flow Chart.
Reporting on Conservation Practices	POCD will work with NRCS and the Farm Service Agency to annually collect information related to ongoing and new practices implemented on individual farms. Additionally, POCD will work with individual producers to annually collect information on self-funded practices implemented, with associated metrics to use in developing biennial and 5-year reports and performance reviews. Information will be collected during the GIS-supported landowner outreach.
Educational Opportunities	Educational materials focused on targeted critical area issues and agricultural practices are available to producers at their convenience. These materials are used at booths at fairs and public meetings.
Farm Tours	POCD-led annual tours are opportunities to share information with producers, partners, and the public. Tours may include on-farm testing and demonstration and field trials.
Video Productions	POCD will create online videos on YouTube introducing VSP elements and guidelines to be distributed via social media and ongoing email communications/virtual newsletters.

## 2.2 Conservation Practices

This report documents implementation of conservation practices that have been facilitated or led by the POCD since October 2018. Section 4.2 of the Work Plan documents conservation practices that were implemented since the establishment of the VSP on July 22, 2011, to 2016, which established appropriate goals and benchmarks for ongoing implementation of the program.

Since October 2018, the POCD has supported producers with implementation of approximately 24 unique types of stewardship projects in partnership with several existing state and local programs, including the following examples:

- **Pend Oreille Public Utilities District (PUD):** In an effort to improve shoreline conditions and wildlife habitat along the Pend Oreille River, POCD is working closely with PUD in a Cottonwood Planting Program and an Erosion Control Program where landowners can receive up to 75% cost share for the implementation of bank stabilization and erosion prevention practices. Most of the PUD projects occur on the Pend Oreille River and provide a net ecological benefit to the area, thus contributing benefits to agricultural lands.
- **Washington State Department of Natural Resources:** In order to improve forest health, increase wildlife habitat, and minimize wildfire risk, POCD works closely with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office. Many of these projects are targeted on or adjacent to agricultural land.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):** Much of the technical assistance provided to agricultural landowners in Pend Oreille County originates from NRCS. POCD collaborates regularly with the local and regional NRCS offices to help facilitate conservation practice implementation and allocate cost-share funds for projects.
- **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Private Lands Biologists working with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide technical assistance and cost share to landowners who are interested in wildlife habitat protection and enhancement on their property.

Funding sources for implementation of POCD-supported stewardship projects have been provided through five different cost-share programs:

- **VSP:** VSP funding is allocated to each participating county for implementation to meet the goals and objectives of their work plan.
- **POCD:** POCD allocates resources with the goal of meeting the needs of local landowners to conserve soil, water, and other natural resources.
- **Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Ecology provides funding for water-quality improvement and protection projects through various grant programs and partnerships with local conservation districts.

- **PUD:** PUD provides landowners with up to 75% cost share in the cottonwood planting and erosion control programs.
- **WSCC:** Through the Natural Resources Investment grant, WSCC allocates up to 75% cost share funding for up to four natural resource projects on an annual basis.

Table 5 summarizes the types of conservation practices implemented since approval of the Work Plan and identifies 2021 Performance Objectives, consistent with Work Plan Tables 5-6 and 5-7.

Projects implemented over the last biennium had agricultural viability benefits that included producing habitat for beneficial species, protecting against erosion, promoting land fertility, and protecting livestock herd health. The projects included protections for all five critical areas (wetlands, habitat conservation areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, geologically hazardous areas, and frequently flooded areas).

Based on the number and type of projects that have already been completed, it appears Pend Oreille County is on track to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks described in the Work Plan by the 5-year reporting period in 2021. As demonstrated in Table 5, protection performance objectives for 2021 have already been exceeded in the categories of Livestock/Range Management, Forest Understory Management, Pest Management, and Habitat Management. A more comprehensive list of implemented conservation practices through other publicly funded sources such as NRCS, and privately funded projects will be reported on in the 5-year status report.

POCD is working to field verify 10% of implemented conservation practice through monitoring and visual recognition annually. The GIS mapping, ISPs, and other outreach practices are incorporating the 10% verification process. POCD currently conducts field verification following installment of all practices and projects that are facilitated by the POCD. The purpose of field verification is to confirm that practices have been installed consistent with best management standards and specifications.

### *2.2.1 Individual Stewardship Plans*

POCD worked with agricultural producers and successfully developed two ISPs in 2019, highlighting a variety of stewardship strategies and practices (See Appendix A for a copy of the finalized ISP template being used by POCD). The ISP addresses identified critical areas on private lands along with other natural resource concerns (soil, water, air, plant, and animal) that occur in Pend Oreille County. The ISP also suggests best management practices relevant to critical area implementation and investigates current and potential interest and ability of landowners to implement them. This document template will be updated and refined over time, as necessary, to address the changing resource concerns of the landowners.

**Table 5**  
**Examples of Projects Implemented Since Work Plan Approval (October 2018)**

Key Stewardship Strategies			Projects		2021 Protection Performance Objectives <sup>1</sup>
Type	Key Conservation Practice	NRCS #	Implementation Agency	Approximate Units	
Livestock/Range Management	Livestock Fencing	382	POCD	3,000 feet	0.8 watering facility 0 acres
	Watering Facility	614	NRCS	4 facilities	
	Heavy Use Area Protection	561	NRCS	0.4 acre	
	Livestock Pipeline	516	NRCS	430 feet	
	Pumping Plant	533	NRCS	1 facility	
Forest Understory Management	Forest Stand Improvement	666	NRCS	221 acres	89 acres
	Fuel Break	383	NRCS	5.5 acres	
	Woody Residue Treatment	384	NRCS	246 acres	
Pest Management	Integrated Pest Management	—	NRCS	168 acres	7 acres
Soil Management	Erosion Control Fabric	—	POCD	1 acre	3 acres 1,467 feet 0 structures
	Erosion Crib Wall	—	POCD	60 feet	
	Grade Stabilization Structure	410	POCD	40 feet	
	Mulching	484	POCD/NRCS	17 acres	
	Recreational Land Grading	566	POCD	1 acre	
	Subsurface Drain	606	POCD	200 feet	140 acres 5 feet 4 pond/structure
	Site Preparation	490	POCD/NRCS	16.5 acres	
	Tree and Shrub Establishment	612	POCD	7,378 acres	
	Forage and Biomass Planting	512	NRCS	8 acres	
	Riparian Forest Buffer	391	NRCS	0.7 acre	
Habitat Management	Structures for Wildlife	649	NRCS	21 structures	4 pond/structure
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645	NRCS	41 acres	
Other (Agricultural Viability)	High Tunnel System	325	NRCS	3,270 square feet	—

## 2.3 Monitoring

The POCD is committed to monitoring performance, reporting progress, and implementing adaptive management measures as discussed in Work Plan Section 6.3. Monitoring focuses on measurable benchmarks and indicators described in Work Plan Section 5 that are to be informally evaluated every 2 years to support the 5-year performance review. In preparation for data monitoring and indicator analysis for the 5-year report, POCD hired a Regional Farm Planner with extensive GIS experience to develop a VSP mapping system to help support an outreach, monitoring, and reporting program. The VSP Coordinator and Outreach Specialist are also committed to monitoring and reporting public participation in stewardship strategies and practices every 2 and 5 years. Results of efforts by POCD to monitor producer participation are summarized in Table 6, consistent with Work Plan Section 5, Table 5-9.

A list of monitoring indicators included for each critical area function in Work Plan Section 5, Table 5-8 are used to inform whether protection of baseline conditions is being achieved during the 5-year reporting period. Indicators will also be used to identify trends and focus efforts on high-priority areas. Some indicators being used to support conservation practice monitoring, such as surface and groundwater tracking through Ecology and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat assessments, are also designed to support other environmental compliance laws including water quality standards and fish habitat protection.

## 2.4 Adaptive Management

Currently, POCD has far exceeded the outreach efforts committed to in the Work Plan. The Work Plan commits to reaching out to 10% of producers annually, which equals 43 producers per year. Based on newsletter publications and postcard distribution, POCD has made over 1,700 contact efforts since Work Plan approval. With the help of the Work Group, POCD will continue to adapt and refine their outreach efforts to continue to make progress on VSP goals and benchmarks, and to support agricultural producers throughout Pend Oreille County.

Aside from outreach and engagement, no adaptive management needs have been identified at this time. Pend Oreille County is early in the implementation and monitoring stage of VSP and currently appears to be on track to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks by the 5-year reporting period. Adaptive management will be triggered if the 5-year performance review suggests that the VSP program may not be protective of critical area functions existing in 2011. Adaptive management will be applied on an ongoing basis as needed and is not restricted to actions included in biennial or 5-year reports. See Work Plan Section 5.4 for discussion on the adaptive management process and thresholds that are to be met by the 5-year performance review.



**Table 6**  
**Producer Participation Monitoring**

<b>Participation Goal:</b> Promote producer participation in voluntary stewardship of agricultural lands and critical areas to meet the protection and/or enhancement benchmarks and protect critical area functions and values at a County-wide watershed level.		
<b>Objectives/Benchmarks</b>	<b>Performance Metric/ Monitoring Method</b>	<b>Biennial Status</b>
Sufficient active participation by commercial and non-commercial agricultural operators (farmers and ranchers) over 10 years that achieves the protection of critical area functions and values at a County-wide watershed level <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of acres reported in key stewardship practices</li> <li>• Number of VSP self-assessment checklists submitted</li> <li>• Sufficient producer participation necessary to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks</li> </ul>	POCD has been tracking and reporting key stewardship strategies and practices since Work Plan approval, summarized in Table 4. Producer participation has been on track to meet protection and enhancement benchmarks at the 5-year reporting period.
Passive participation by commercial and non-commercial agricultural operators in VSP stewardship practices is maintained or increased over 10 years on agricultural land <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and aerial photo evaluation and/or rapid watershed assessment of practices in place</li> <li>• Random sampling of farmers and ranchers in the field by technical assistance providers with willing landowners</li> </ul>	POCD has hired GIS support to develop methodology for GIS tracking of critical areas and to assist in targeted landowner outreach. Figure 1 demonstrates the process for site visits and technical assistance.
Technical assistance and outreach are provided to agricultural producers to encourage stewardship practices and VSP participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of outreach and education events</li> <li>• Number of event attendees</li> </ul>	POCD engaged with over 160 potential participants at four outreach events since Work Plan approval. VSP outreach materials were presented at these events. See Section 2.1.2 for more information. POCD staff have conducted over 25 technical assistance site visits since Work Plan approval.

Notes:

1. Active participation includes conservation practices reported either through publicly funded programs or self-reported through the VSP self-assessment checklist in coordination with the VSP Coordinator or technical assistance provider.
2. Passive participation includes un-reported conservation practices.

## 2.5 Reporting

This report is intended to be a summary of accomplishments and plans of commitments in the Work Plan since approval of the plan in October 2018. The 5-year performance review will provide a more robust report that specifically documents how the County has met protection and enhancement goals and benchmarks from the Work Plan. The 5-year report will include an analysis of monitoring indicators and an adaptive management plan if the benchmarks are not being met. The WSCC is working on the approval of regulations setting out the 2- and 5-year reporting content

in more detail in the Washington Administrative Code for review by the State Advisory Committee, with approval as soon as practicable (WSCC 2019).

## 2.6 Agricultural Viability

Conservation practices implemented in Pend Oreille County also have the potential to sustain agricultural viability. Many of the cost-share projects planned or completed in this biennium have allowed producers to benefit from ecosystem services while also protecting herd health, promoting yield, and protecting against risk of erosion. Continued VSP participation by landowners is expected to result in additional conservation practice implementation along with the intrinsic benefits to agricultural viability that can be realized. VSP participation provides resources and incentives to producers for protecting critical areas without discontinuing agricultural activities or converting agricultural land to other uses.

## 2.7 Spirit of Cooperation

Since approval of the Work Plan, the POCD has collaborated, partnered, contracted or coordinated with the following:

- The Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Palouse, Pomeroy, Stevens, Ferry, Lincoln, Franklin, and Spokane Conservation Districts
- The Pend Oreille County Weed Board and Information/Technology Department
- PUD

Through these partnerships, POCD has leveraged resources to provide the VSP with the following:

- Cultural resource and engineering professionals and cost share funding for participants
- Natural resource technical assistance
- GIS technical development
- Outreach and education
- Bookkeeping support

To continue building relationships with local, state, and public organizations, POCD updates the website and social media platforms regularly to keep community members consistently informed of different aspects of VSP.

### 3 Voluntary Stewardship Program Successes

Since 2018, POCD has worked with landowners to coordinate implementation of stewardship strategies and practices that not only protect and enhance critical areas functions and values, but also support the viability of agriculture for individual agricultural producers. Some of these successes are highlighted in the following sections.

#### 3.1 Forest Health Improvements

With funding made available through the Environmental Quality and Incentives Program the USADA-Natural Resource Conservation Service was able to assist four landowners with the implementation of fuel breaks, forest stand pruning and slash treatment practices on over 220 acres of private land. As a result of these practices, wildfire risk was reduced as rangeland and forest health conditions improved.

**Photograph 1**

**Forest Stand Pruning and Pollinator Habitat for Forest Health Improvement**



Source: POCD



### 3.2 Exclusion Fencing of Waterway

Leveraging funding through the Washington State Conservation Commission, the POCD was able to secure Ecology funding to make possible the implementation of 3,700 feet of exclusion fencing for two producers in Pend Oreille County. While these exclusion fences immediately improve water quality by reducing nutrient loading of waterbodies, they also improve water quality and habitat by allowing for riparian trees, shrubs, and groundcover to establish and better filter out nutrients before they reach the waterbody.

**Photograph 2**  
**Exclusion Fencing Example**



Source: POCD

### 3.3 Riparian Plantings

Using a combination of funding provided by the Washington State Conservation Commission and PUD, POCD was able to work with 15 landowners to install 7,378 native trees and shrubs along various waterways in Pend Oreille County. Many of these plantings included wildlife browse protection and mulching practices for weed control. These native plants help to improve soil and water quality by developing roots that bind soils together and filter nutrients as they enter waterbodies.

**Photograph 3**  
**Riparian Planting Example**



Source: POCD

## 4 References

White Bluffs Consulting, 2018. *Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Approved Work Plan*. Approved by Washington State Conservation Commission on September 28, 2018. Prepared for Pend Oreille Conservation District and Pend Oreille County. Prepared with assistance from Anchor QEA, LLC. October 2018.

WSCC (Washington State Conservation Commission), 2018. VSP Policy Advisory #05-18: Approved VSP Work Plan Implementation Reporting Requirements & Procedure. June 2018. Available at: <https://scc.wa.gov/vsp-counties-workgroups/>.

WSCC, 2019. May 2019 VSP Newsletter. May 2019. Available at: <https://scc.wa.gov/vsp-newsletters/>.

# Appendix A

## Outreach Materials

---

- One-Page VSP Flyer
- Five Critical Area Handouts
- VSP Overview & Checklist
- Individual Stewardship Plan Template

## Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

VSP Coordinator:

David Marcel, Pend Oreille Conservation District  
(509) 447-1155, davidm@pocd.org

### What is VSP?

VSP is a non-regulatory, incentive-based approach to protecting critical areas on agricultural lands, while maintaining agricultural viability. VSP allows farmers to continue agricultural practices without regulation under Pend Oreille County's Development Regulations (Chapter XX.36 Environmentally Sensitive Areas) by promoting voluntary conservation practices by producers that protect critical areas and maintain and enhance agricultural viability. VSP is not a replacement for compliance with other laws and regulations, but participation in the program can often help agricultural producers comply with these requirements.

Under VSP, critical areas on lands where agricultural activities are conducted are managed under this voluntary program. Lands used for non-agricultural purposes are regulated under Pend Oreille County's Development Regulations.

### VSP Work Plan

Pend Oreille County developed a VSP Work Plan for use by farmers that is tailored to the region and local producers. The VSP Work Plan was developed by the Pend Oreille County Work Group convened by the County and comprised of agricultural producers, representatives from the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, local government elected officials and staff, agency representatives, and interest groups. The VSP Work Plan identifies conservation practices that are implemented under existing programs or voluntarily implemented and identifies future goals and benchmarks for continued protection and enhancement of the County's critical areas.



Photo credit: Travis Hanson

### What are Critical Areas?

The five critical areas in Pend Oreille County include:

- wetlands
- fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
- frequently flooded areas
- critical aquifer recharge areas
- geologically hazardous areas

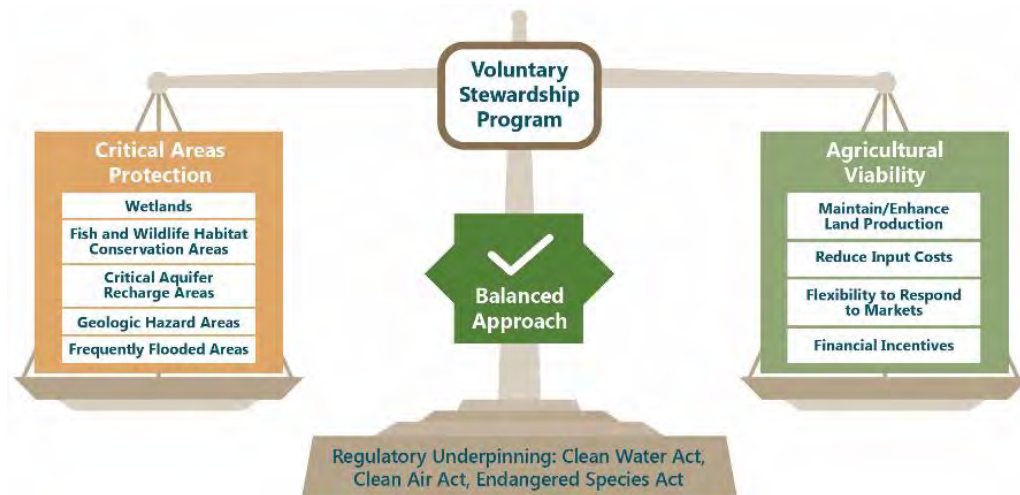
The key functions and values provided Pend Oreille County's critical areas can be summarized into four major functions, which include: 1) water quality, 2) hydrology, 3) soil, and 4) fish and wildlife habitat. Each critical area provides one or more of these key functions and values.

To find out if you have critical areas on your property, check the Pend Oreille Conservation District VSP webpage or VSP Work Plan maps. If you have any questions, you can contact the Pend Oreille Conservation District for more information.



Photo credit: Ecology





### What Does VSP Participation Look Like?

Many farmers and ranchers in Pend Oreille County are already conducting conservation practices that promote agricultural viability while also providing protections to critical areas. Agricultural producers that have properties that intersect critical areas can be as involved in VSP as they want to be, whether it is simply documenting practices, or assisting with ongoing monitoring and coordination. Producers do not have to be part of a federal program to be involved in VSP.

### How Do I Get Involved in VSP?

To get involved in VSP, all you have to do is share conservation practices implemented on your land with the VSP Coordinator. Additionally, consider reaching out to your neighbors and commodity group representative and share ideas on new practices that benefit critical areas and agricultural viability. Conservation practices information shared by producers with the Pend Oreille Conservation District will be reported for VSP at the watershed and County scales.

Contact David Marcell at the Pend Oreille County Conservation District for more information on ways to participate in VSP:  
[davidm@pocd.org](mailto:davidm@pocd.org), (509) 447-1155



Photo credit: Travis Hanson

### For more information, visit:

[pendoreilleco.org/your-government/community-development/vsp/](http://pendoreilleco.org/your-government/community-development/vsp/) or [pocd.org/voluntary-stewardship-program](http://pocd.org/voluntary-stewardship-program)

**Help keep critical areas protection voluntary.**

**Working together, farmers and ranchers can use voluntary efforts to avoid additional regulatory controls.**

# Understanding Critical Areas Wetlands



**Wetlands are areas where soils are covered by water for some part of the year. This dynamic relationship between water and soil affects what plants and animals call these areas home. Water-logged soils and water-loving plants can typically be found in wetlands.**

## Functions and Values

- **Water Quality:** Controls erosion, reduces siltation and surface water pollution, increases areas of recharge/discharge for lakes and groundwater aquifers
- **Hydrology:** stores water and moderates surface and stormwater flows
- **Habitat:** Ideal habitat for an abundance of aquatic, terrestrial and avian species

## Potential Impacts

Agricultural practices can have a significant impact on wetlands.

- **Livestock access** can degrade wetlands through nutrient runoff, compaction, and increased erosion
- **Fertilizers and pesticides** can degrade water quality if applied in excess

Need help identifying a Critical Area on your property? Contact the Pend Oreille County Conservation District and Voluntary Stewardship Program for more information.  
Phone: 509 447 6451 Email: [lalkire@pendoreille.org](mailto:lalkire@pendoreille.org)

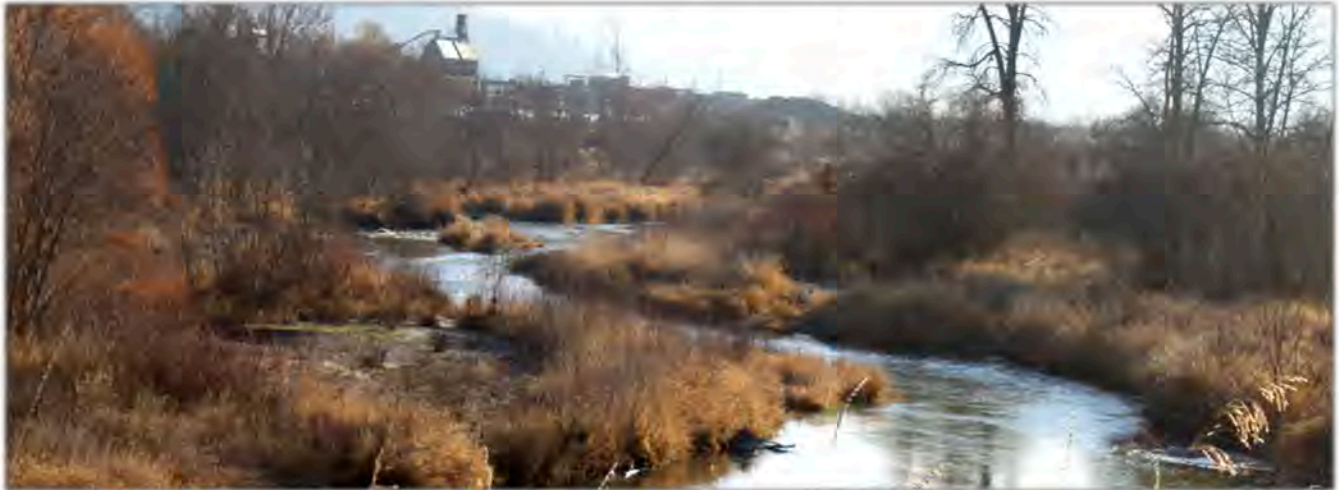
*PROTECTING CRITICAL AREAS WHILE ENHANCING THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE*

Adapted from the Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan  
and the Washington State Department of Commerce's Critical Areas Handbook



## Understanding Critical Areas

# Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas



Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCAs) are lands and waters that native plants and animals call home. These areas frequently overlap with residential areas and agricultural activities. Some of these plants or animals may be considered *endangered*, *threatened* or *sensitive* species.

### Functions and Values

- **Water Quality:** Sediment filtration, temperature protection, nutrient runoff reduction
- **Hydrology:** Water storage and transport, retention of base flows
- **Habitat:** Provision of primary habitat for aquatic, avian and terrestrial species, including species designated *endangered*, *threatened* or *sensitive*

### Potential Impacts

Large numbers of wildlife and livestock can cause direct and indirect contamination of streams and sediment. The removal of habitat for raptors and other predators can have negative impacts on ecosystem functioning. Lack of riparian plants can increase water temperature, sediment levels, and loss of farm ground. In addition, farm chemical runoff can degrade water quality and wildlife health.

Need help identifying a Critical Area on your property? Contact the Pend Oreille County Conservation District and Voluntary Stewardship Program for more information.  
Phone: 509 447 6451 Email: [ialkire@pendoreille.org](mailto:ialkire@pendoreille.org)

*PROTECTING CRITICAL AREAS WHILE ENHANCING THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE*

Adapted from the Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan  
and the Washington State Department of Commerce's Critical Areas Handbook



# Understanding Critical Areas

## Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas



Rain water, surface water and runoff percolate belowground to a groundwater reservoir called an aquifer. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas (CARAs) are specific locations where surface water directly impacts the aquifer, which supplies much of our drinking water. If areas of recharge contaminate our groundwater, the quality of our drinking water is impacted and it is extremely difficult and costly to clean up.

### Functions and Values

- **Water Quality:** Recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water via the permeation of water through the soil and underlying material
- **Hydrology:** recharges groundwater resources

### Potential Impacts

CARAs are highly impacted by agricultural land management practices that increase erosion and nutrient runoff. The risk of contamination by nitrates and other fertilizers or pesticides can significantly impact CARAs if existing laws or best management practices (BMPs) are not followed.

Need help identifying a Critical Area on your property? Contact the Pend Oreille County Conservation District and Voluntary Stewardship Program for more information.  
Phone: 509 447 6451 Email: [ialkire@pendoreille.org](mailto:ialkire@pendoreille.org)

*PROTECTING CRITICAL AREAS WHILE ENHANCING THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE*

Adapted from the Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan  
and the Washington State Department of Commerce's Critical Areas Handbook



## Understanding Critical Areas

# Geologically Hazardous Areas



**Geologically Hazardous Areas (GHAs)** are areas that are at risk of erosion, landslides, earthquakes, or other geological events. Slopes greater than 30% or that show severe rill or inter-rill erosion may be considered GHAs.

### Functions and Values

- **Water Quality:** Risk of sediment accumulation in waterway due to erosion or mass failure of geological hazardous areas
- **Soil Health:** Potential for erosion or mass movement due to slope and soil characteristics.

### Potential Impacts

Geologically Hazardous Areas are at a severe risk of erosion or sliding, especially if vegetation is removed or agricultural practices involve intensive soil disturbance through tillage. Wildfires can also increase erosion risks through vegetation loss.

Managed livestock grazing, minimizing soil disturbance through reduced or no till practices, maintaining vegetative cover, terracing and reducing ladder fuels help to reduce these risks.

Need help identifying a Critical Area on your property? Contact the Pend Oreille County Conservation District and Voluntary Stewardship Program for more information.  
Phone: 509 447 6451 Email: [lalkire@pendoreille.org](mailto:lalkire@pendoreille.org)

*PROTECTING CRITICAL AREAS WHILE ENHANCING THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE*

Adapted from the Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan  
and the Washington State Department of Commerce's Critical Areas Handbook



## Understanding Critical Areas Frequently Flooded Areas



**Frequently Flooded Areas (FFAs) are floodways and floodplains that have a one (1%) or greater chance of flooding during any particular year. Due to high amounts of organic matter and the presence of water, these areas are considered productive farmland.**

### Functions and Values

- **Water Quality:** Affects surface and groundwater quality by moving sediments and other materials based on timing and the magnitude of flows
- **Hydrology:** Temporary flood storage and conveyance
- **Soil Health:** Soil health and vegetative conditions within floodplains impact erosion potential during flood events

### Potential Impacts

Agricultural practices can have a significant impact on floodplain vegetation and root structures. Tillage, nutrient application and other land management practices can affect the potential for soil erosion and nutrient runoff. This, in turn, can significantly impact water and soil quality.

Channel maintenance, improvement and bank stability projects can help enhance the function and values of the flood plain.

Need help identifying a Critical Area on your property? Contact the Pend Oreille County Conservation District and Voluntary Stewardship Program for more information.  
Phone: 509 447 6451 Email: [ialkire@pendoreille.org](mailto:ialkire@pendoreille.org)

*PROTECTING CRITICAL AREAS WHILE ENHANCING THE VIABILITY OF AGRICULTURE*

Adapted from the Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program Work Plan  
and the Washington State Department of Commerce's Critical Areas Handbook

## Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

VSP Coordinator:

David Marcell, Pend Oreille Conservation District  
(509) 447-1155, davidm@pocd.org

### Have a Potential VSP Project?

The Conservation District is looking for potential projects to fund under VSP. If you have a project in mind that you think might directly or indirectly benefit critical areas, please take a minute to fill out this brief form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Brief Project Description

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Ballpark cost: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost share amount (%) : \_\_\_\_\_

Targeted date: \_\_\_\_\_



Photo credit: Travis Hanson

### What are Critical Areas?

The five critical areas in Pend Oreille County include:

- wetlands
- fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
- frequently flooded areas
- critical aquifer recharge areas
- geologically hazardous areas



Photo credit: Ecology

**Help keep critical areas protection  
voluntary.**

**Working together, farmers and ranchers can  
use voluntary efforts to avoid additional  
regulatory controls.**



## Individual Stewardship Plan

The Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) will use the template below for completing Individual Stewardship Plans for agricultural operators. Information collected through the template is transferable into a spreadsheet for reporting purposes.

Completion of this survey will help the agricultural community in Pend Oreille County meet its participation standards under the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP). This Individual Stewardship Plan survey will be used to assess trends in implementation of practices that support agricultural viability and critical area protection in Pend Oreille County. The individual results of this survey will be held in confidentiality by the Pend Oreille Conservation District. External reporting of Individual Stewardship Plan results will only occur at the watershed scale.

### Section 1. Introduction and Site Assessment

Your name:	
Phone number or email address:	
Today's date:	
Agricultural business address:	
Name of person who manages your farm:	
Number of acres in agricultural production:	

#### What products do you produce?

- ☐ Dairy
- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Crop
- ☐ Other:



**Please highlight which of the following critical areas are on your property (multiple answers are expected in many cases):**

- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Stream(s)
- ☐ Endangered, threatened, or sensitive species
- ☐ Geologic hazards (e.g. steep slopes or erosion hazards)
- ☐ Floodplain
- ☐ Aquifer recharge areas
- ☐ None – I do not have any of these critical areas on my property

	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you have an Individual Stewardship Plan (a.k.a. farm plan) prepared in coordination with Pend Oreille Conservation District?			
If yes, in what year was it prepared?			

Please list any other agricultural certification programs in which you participate:

**Please select each of the following natural resource concerns you may have on your property:**

Soils

- ☐ Erosion
  - ☐ Sheet/Rill/Gully
  - ☐ Wind-related
- ☐ Soil Quality Degradation
  - ☐ Compaction
  - ☐ Organic Matter Depletion
  - ☐ Subsidence
  - ☐ Excessive nutrients or salts

Water

- ☐ Excess Water
  - ☐ Seeps
  - ☐ Seasonal high water table
  - ☐ Runoff, flooding or ponding
  - ☐ Drifted snow
- ☐ Insufficient Water
  - ☐ Inefficient use of irrigation
  - ☐ Inefficient moisture maintenance
- ☐ Water Quality Degradation (Surface and Groundwater resources)
  - ☐ Pesticides/Nutrients/Salts
  - ☐ Excess pathogens/chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost
  - ☐ Petroleum/heavy chemicals/other pollutants

Air

- ☐ Emissions
  - ☐ Particulate Matter (PM)
  - ☐ Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)
  - ☐ Ozone Precursors
  - ☐ Objectionable Odors

### Plants

- ☐ Degraded Plant Condition
  - ☐ Undesirable plant productivity/health
  - ☐ Excess plant pest pressures
  - ☐ Inadequate structure/composition
  - ☐ Wildfire hazard/excess fuels

### Animal

- ☐ Fish & Wildlife Habitat
  - ☐ Inadequate: water/space/habitat
  - ☐ Threatened/endangered fish and wildlife
- ☐ Domestic Animals
  - ☐ Inadequate quality/quantity of forage, shelter, stock water
  - ☐ Stress & Mortality

### Energy

- ☐ Inefficient Energy Use
  - ☐ Equipment & facility
  - ☐ Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

**For each of the following sections, please answer by placing an 'X' in the appropriate box.**

### **Section 2. Agricultural Viability**

The following questions are based on an assessment of risks to agricultural viability in Pend Oreille County. Your answers will be used to identify needs and opportunities for programs and/or outreach that can help support agricultural viability.

Regulatory Consistency	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you keep yourself informed of updates to relevant federal and state regulations and guidance?			
Are you interested in changes in regulations but do not have the time or ability to find this information for yourself?			

Additional comments related to agricultural viability:

### Section 3. Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers (Nutrient Management)

This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, and frequently flooded areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Have you or the land manager received training, education, or advice in integrated pest management (IPM) prior to/since 2011?						
Do you follow WSDA rules (new RCWs and WACs) regarding the application of pesticides?						
Do you implement IPM and/or other stewardship practices for pesticide application?						
Do you implement best practices for storage and disposal of pesticides?						
Do you implement measures to limit pesticide, herbicide, or fertilizer transfer to drainage systems?						
Do you implement stewardship practices to manage agricultural runoff and leaching?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to limit the transport of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to critical areas (optional):						

#### Section 4. Sediment Runoff Management

This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, steep slopes (geologically hazardous areas) and frequently flooded areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Have you improved your access road to limit erosion issues?						
Do you disperse concentrated flows from roof runoff or impervious surfaces like concrete pads away from high-use areas?						
Do you maintain continuous cover on your fields to minimize erosion?						
Do you avoid or limit tillage during the wet season?						
Do you minimize soil disturbance on steep slopes?						
Have you minimized erosion by re-engineering or re-sloping streambanks?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to limit sediment-laden runoff (optional):						

#### Section 5. Water Quantity

This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, and critical aquifer recharge areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
If you irrigate, have you taken steps to improve irrigation efficiency (e.g. sprinkler systems, drip irrigation, etc.)?						
Do you use water catchment and/or retention strategies?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to conserve water (optional):						

## Section 6. Floodplain

This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, and frequently flooded areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
If your property is within the floodplain, are your operations compatible with seasonal or occasional winter flooding?						
Do you ensure compliance with the County's Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to maintain floodplain functions (optional):						

## Section 7. Stream and Riparian Habitat

This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat and wetlands. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Do you maintain vegetated riparian areas that separate your agricultural activities from adjacent streams or wetlands?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to maintain stream and riparian habitat (optional):						

### Section 8. Wetlands

This section relates to the following critical areas: wetlands. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Do you conduct measures to protect or improve the water quality or habitat condition of existing wetlands?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to protect or improve wetland areas (optional):						

### Section 9. Federally-Listed Endangered or Threatened Species

This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Do you conduct measures to maintain or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that occur on your property? If yes, please describe these measures in the comments below.						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to maintain or improve habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species (optional).						

### Section 10. Voluntary Restoration Projects

This section relates ALL previously described critical areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Have you conducted projects to restore or enhance floodplain or surge wetland functions?						
Have you repaired or replaced any culverts to improve fish passage prior to/since 2011?						
Have you conducted any stream habitat restoration projects on your property?						
Please provide additional comments related to any voluntary restoration projects (optional):						

### Section 11. Physical Safety – Flooding and Geologically Hazardous Areas

This section relates to the following critical areas: frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas. The following questions may apply to a range of producers and operations.

	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Have you relocated any structures out of the mapped floodway?						
Do you implement stewardship practices to control drainage near geologically sensitive areas?						
Do you maintain vegetation on slopes greater than 30%?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices to maintain safety in areas prone to flooding and geohazards (optional):						

### Section 12: Forest Health [To Be Determined]

### Section 13. Additional Questions for Livestock and Dairy Farmers

Questions specific to livestock/dairy production relate to water quality control measures, including fecal coliform and nutrients and riparian management. This section relates to the following critical areas: fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, and frequently flooded areas.

Fecal Coliform and Nutrients	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Do you implement stewardship practices to avoid water pollution from animal waste?						
Have you or the land manager received training in stocking rates and/or rotational grazing prior to/since 2011?						
Do you implement rotational grazing practices or other measures to prevent overstocking?						
Are your livestock concentration areas positioned away from surface waters?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices that limit the transport of fecal coliform and nutrients to critical areas (optional):						

Riparian Management	I have maintained practices since 2011	I have improved practices since 2011	Not as much as in 2011	Unsure	Interested	Not Applicable
Do you provide off-stream watering access for livestock?						
Do you maintain barriers (vegetation, fencing, berms) to discourage livestock from entering streams?						
Have you improved stream crossing conditions to minimize instream disturbance?						
Please provide additional comments related to your practices that manage riparian areas (optional):						



**Section 14. Follow-up**

In the following section, please indicate any areas where you would be interested in implementing new or additional conservation measures if funding and/or technical assistance are available.

	Yes, if funding is available	Yes, if technical assistance is available	Yes, on my own	No	Not Applicable
Technical Assistance					
Stabilizing Streambanks or Shorelines					
Professional Engineering					
Managing nutrients and runoff					
Installing a fence					
Installing a watering facility for cattle					
Minimizing wildfire and pest risk in forests					
Managing application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer					
Rotational Grazing					
Irrigation efficiencies and water catchment strategies					
Improving floodplain, wetland, instream, or riparian habitat					
Improving habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species					
Managing flood risks					
Establishing a riparian buffer					
Please indicate any other activities that you are interested in, which are not listed above:					
Please provide any additional comments on this section:					

## **Additional Technical Resources**

### **Washington State Conservation Commission**

WSSC-IM <https://www.pocd.org/technical-assistance-free>

### **Technical Assistance**

- General questions
- Project coordination
- ISP, Individual Stewardship Plan drafting
- Permitting support
- Cultural Resource support

### **Professional Engineering** (surveying, design, quality control during implementation)

WSSC-ENG <https://scc.wa.gov/professional-engineering/>

### **Cultural Resources Funding** (professional archaeologist funding)

WSSC-CR <https://scc.wa.gov/cultural-resources/>

### **Natural Resource Investments Grant**

WSSC-NRI <https://scc.wa.gov/nri/>

### **Educational Innovation Grant**

WSSC-EI <https://scc.wa.gov/iegp/>

### **Additional Resources**

### **POCD Voluntary Stewardship Program**

POC-VSP <https://scc.wa.gov/vsp/>

### **Public Utilities District Shoreline Grants**

PUD-CW/EC <https://www.popud.org/projects/box-canyon-dam/erosion-control/>  
& <https://www.pocd.org/pud-shoreline-grants>

### **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**

Forest Stewardship and Technical Assistance Foresters

Forest Health Management and Fuels Reduction

<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/forest-practices/small-forest-landowners/forest-stewardship-program>

### **Contact Information:**

email: [northeast.region@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:northeast.region@dnr.wa.gov)

address: 225 S. Silke Rd., Colville, WA 99114-9369

phone: 509-684-7474

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funding

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

Contact Information:

Mark Simpson, Resource Specialist

Email: [mark.simpson@wa.usda.gov](mailto:mark.simpson@wa.usda.gov)

Address: 100 N. Washington Ave, Room 110. PO Box 280, Newport, WA 99156-0280

Phone: 509-447-4217

**Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)**

Contact Information: Eastern Region

Email: [teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov)

Address: 2315 Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, WA, 99216-1566

Phone: 509-892-1001

**Department of Ecology**

Water Quality Grants and Loans

<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/How-we-operate/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-grants-and-loans>

Contact Information: Eastern Region

Email: [ecydlcommwebteam@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecydlcommwebteam@ecy.wa.gov)

Address: 4601 N. Monroe, Spokane, WA, 99205-1295

Phone: 509-329-3400