

# CONSERVATION CONNECTION

Winter 2018-19



## Mark Your Calendar

- **VSP –Education and Outreach Phase to begin 2019. Event dates TBD.**
- **2019 Spring Plant Sale flyer in the mail the first week of January, 2019**
- **Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting, Wednesday, January 23.**
- **2019 Spring Plant Sale Pickup, April 12 and 13, 2019**
- **2019 Spring Conservation Fair, April 13, 2019**

## Inside this issue:

<b>2019 Spring Plant Sale</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>VSP Plans in Place across the State</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Spring Plant Sale (cont.)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EQIP Deadline</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>District Staff / Board of Supervisors</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Voluntary Stewardship Update</b>	<b>4</b>

## Ferry Conservation District

**Our mission is to safeguard the rural lifestyle and sustainable use of natural resources of Ferry County for present and future landowners, residents, and visitors by offering technical and financial assistance, outreach, and education through partnerships.**

### 2019 Spring Plant Sale

**Ferry Conservation District Event to Offer Natives, Fruit Trees, Berries, Grapes and other Edibles**

Planting trees, shrubs and berries on your property provides multiple benefits. Plants will beautify your property and add to its value. The foliage and fruits of plants provide food for wildlife and for your family. Flowering shrubs attract pollinators, such as butterflies and bees, enhancing the entire ecosystem. Trees can provide shade, privacy and act as a windbreak. Reforestation trees enhance the landscape and provide timber and firewood for harvest in the future. Planting in riparian areas helps protect the banks, preventing erosion and degradation of water quality.

This year, the District is again offering a variety of plants selected for our local climate.

#### Natives

Native plants require less irrigation and fertilization than non-native plants, are more resistant to pests and disease, and will better provide food and shelter for local wildlife.

**Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*)** grows on dry

south-facing slopes and is very tolerant of high summer temperatures. Fire resilient, not truly fire resistant. Deer-resistant. Zone 4. Mature size: height 60-100 ft+, canopy spread : 30' to 40'.

#### Western larch (*Larix occidentalis*)

The needles of the larch turn a beautiful golden color in October before dropping off.

It thrives on northern or western exposures. Fire resilient, not truly fire resistant. Deer-resistant. Zone 4-8. Mature size: height 100+ ft., canopy spread: 25'-35'.

#### Black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera ssp trichocarpa*)

The tree is well known for its resinous buds, and cottony fluff which blows down from the tree in the spring wind like snow. Thriving in moist soil, its aggressive root system serves to anchor the banks of streams and lakes. Fire-resistant. Zones 1-8. Mature height: 100+ feet,

canopy spread: 25 to 30 feet.

#### Western Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

Often planted as an ornamental but also used to reclaim badly disturbed sites. Tolerant of varied moisture levels. Fire resistant. Zones 2 to 6. Mature size: 60-80 feet, canopy spread: 15-25 feet.

#### Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

With its fragrant white flowers and dark purple berries, this native shrub is a magnet for birds. Fire-resistant. Zone 4-5. Mature size: height: 12'+ tall, spread: 8'.

#### Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)

This native evergreen shrub produces attractive clusters of yellow flowers followed by blue berries. Deer-resistant, fire resistant. Zone 4-8. Mature size: 8'x 8'.

*(2019 Spring Plant Sale, cont. on pg. 3)*





## Ferry County VSP Work Plan approved! County to join 26 others in Washington in supporting agriculture while protecting critical areas

**(Article provided by the Washington State Conservation Commission.)** OLYMPIA, WA – Twenty-seven of Washington’s 39 counties have the green light to use incentive-based and farm-friendly strategies to comply with state growth management requirements. With approval of Spokane County’s Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) work plan on November 30, work plans for all counties using the VSP approach have been approved by the state.

This milestone is the culmination of a negotiated effort that began over 11 years ago to resolve disputes over protection of wetlands, salmon habitat, other critical areas, and agricultural activities.

“It is very exciting to see that all 27 counties that opted in to the VSP program now have approved watershed plans,” said John Stuhlmiller, Chief Executive Officer of the Washington Farm Bureau. “It has been a challenging journey, and I am pleased to see that the original vision of a voluntary, local process has proved successful.”

---

*“It has been a challenging journey, and I am pleased to see that the original vision of a voluntary, local process has proved successful.”*

---

VSP work plans are an answer to the state requirement that each county develop plans for managing population growth, protecting critical areas located on farmland, and promoting farm viability. Critical areas include wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, frequently flooded areas, critical aquifer recharge areas, and geologically hazardous areas, such as those prone to erosion.

The plans rely on incentives to voluntarily engage farmers in stewardship activities that protect critical areas. Prior to 2011 and the creation of VSP, the main tool for counties to meet state growth management requirements was regulation. With VSP, counties and landowners will demonstrate how incentive-based farm practices can protect or even enhance critical areas.

Each VSP work plan has been reviewed and approved by a state technical panel and the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC), the state agency that administers VSP.

“The State Conservation Commission and all partners involved with developing and reviewing these work plans have worked hard to ensure that each VSP county has a path forward that’s a win for the environment, a win for agriculture, and that will help them sustainably plan for and manage growth,” said Mark Clark, SCC Executive Director. “This is a great example of a collaborative, community-driven solution that’s making Washington an even better place to live and work.”

Now that all VSP work plans have been approved, community members, farmers, and landowners should see an increase in outreach and education efforts from their local county work groups informing them of the benefits of VSP and seeking their participation in protecting critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture.

“Now we have to keep pressing on to ensure that plans get implemented in a way that protects critical areas while maintaining and enhancing the viability of agriculture in each participating county,” said Stuhlmiller.

### **Program background**

In 2006, court decisions indicated agricultural lands could not be exempted from regulatory requirements for protection of these critical areas. Some agricultural producers voiced concern that these regulatory burdens would force them out of agriculture. At the same time, other stakeholders were concerned that critical areas needed to be protected from potential agricultural impacts. This dispute led to a negotiated process at the William D. Ruckelshaus Center, which resulted in the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

## 2019 Spring Plant Sale (cont. from pg. 1)

### Fruit Trees

**Red McIntosh apple (*Malus domestica*).** An all-purpose red and green skinned apple with a tart flavor, it is suitable both for cooking and eating raw. The Macintosh line of personal computers was named after this fruit. Semi-dwarf. 10 to 15 feet tall and wide.

**Manchurian Crab Apple.** Fragrant white flowers open from pink buds in spring. Small fall fruit attract birds and may be made into jelly. Manchurian crab apple will pollinate many apple varieties, including the McIntosh. Semi-dwarf. 10-15 feet tall and wide.



**Early Italian Plum (*Prunus domestica*).** Produces fruit larger, sweeter and earlier than the standard Italian type. Mature size: 20' by 20'. Hardy to Zone 5. Self-fertile.

**Columbia Red Anjou Pear (*Pyrus communis*)** A dark maroon, juicy, firm pear with a fresh, sweet, and slightly tangy flavor. Semi-dwarf. Grow to 12-15 ft. tall and wide. Zones 5-8. Requires cross-pollination (Flemish Beauty will work.)



**Flemish Beauty (*Pyrus communis*)** A large, highly flavored variety that produces tasty fruit. The skin is creamy yellow in color and sometimes lightly blushed with bright red. Semi-dwarf (grow to 12-15 ft. tall and wide). Partially self-fertile (Another pear, such as Columbia Red Anjou will improve pollination). Zones 4-7.

### Berries

**Tristar strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*).** This sweet strawberry is a "day-neutral" berry, producing large, glossy red berries from the end of June until fall frost. This winter hardy plant is self-pollinating. Zones 4-8.

**Jewel strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*).** This strawberry, developed at Cornell University, has a large, firm, sweet fruit. Considered a June-bearing strawberry, it ripens a bit later than other June-bearing strawberries. Zones 4-8.

**Fall gold raspberry (*Rubus hybrid*).** Large, conical, very sweet, somewhat soft, golden berries. Excellent for processing and fresh eating. First crop ripens in July. Second crop from late August until frost. Zones 4-8.



**Haskap Berry or Honeyberry (*Lonicera villosa var. caerulea*)** This winter-hardy honeysuckle, is native to Canada, Japan, and Russia. This very winter-hardy shrub produces blue berries in early summer, which have a tart/sweet taste, like a raspberry or blueberry. The plant is touted as being easy to grow, more tolerant of a wide range of pH and soil conditions than a blueberry plant. We are offering two varieties, The **Taka** and the **Tana**, sold together for cross-pollination.

### Grapes

**Himrod (*Vitis vinifera*)** is a seedless table grape which makes wonderfully sweet raisins with a little bite to them. The wine from this variety is light and dry. Highly productive. Zone 5-8.

**Leon Millot (*Vitis vinifera*)** is a red variety of hybrid grape used for wine, named after wine-maker and tree nursery owner Leon Millot. It is an early season harvest grape. Zone 4.

### Other Edibles

**Tulelake Horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*).** Another first-time offering in the plant sale, horseradish is a plant of the Brassica family. Hardy to zone 3. Grows to 5 ft. tall.



**Crimson cherry rhubarb (*Rheum x hybridum*).** This rhubarb variety produces brightly colored red stalks. Hardy and easy to grow. Zones 4-8. Height: 2-4 ft, Spread: 3-4 Ft

### To Order Plants

Look for a flyer in the mail or visit the District website at [www.ferrycd.org](http://www.ferrycd.org). If you have any questions regarding plant availability or what type of plant(s) would best suit your needs, please contact the District at 775-3473 (ext. 100).

---

*"...This very winter-hardy shrub (Honeyberry) produces blue berries in early summer, which have a tart/sweet taste, like a raspberry or blueberry."*

---

## Ferry Conservation District

84 East Delaware Ave.  
PO Box 1045  
Republic, WA 99166  
(509)775-3473 Ext. 5

Conserving Natural Resources Since 1947

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or create wildlife habitat.**

**The deadline for fiscal year 2019 EQIP funding is February 15, 2019.**

**Each applicant must establish themselves as a USDA customer and complete all Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements *prior* to the application cut-off date.**

**For additional information contact Patrice Beckwith at 509-775-3473 x102 or [patrice.beckwith@wa.usda.gov](mailto:patrice.beckwith@wa.usda.gov)**

Box Holder

Republic, WA 99166

The Ferry County Voluntary Stewardship (VSP) Work Plan has been approved by the Washington State Conservation Commission Technical Committee! See story on Page 2.



The plan is available online for review (For more info and a link to the plan [click here.](#))

We're on the Web. Visit us at:

<http://www.ferrycd.org>

#### District Staff

Lloyd Odell, *Manager*  
Candy Lammon, *Financial Administrator*  
Bill Chamberlin, *Resource Assistant*

#### District Board of Supervisors

Eric Bracken, *Chair*  
Dave Konz, *Vice Chair*  
Charlotte Coombes, *Auditor*  
Scott Palmer, *Member*

#### Partner Agency Staff

Patrice Beckwith, *NRCS Resource Conservationist*  
Celeste Accord, *FSA County Executive Director*



*A winter morning  
in Ferry County*

**Ferry Conservation District is a non-regulatory agency. Our services are available to all without discrimination.**