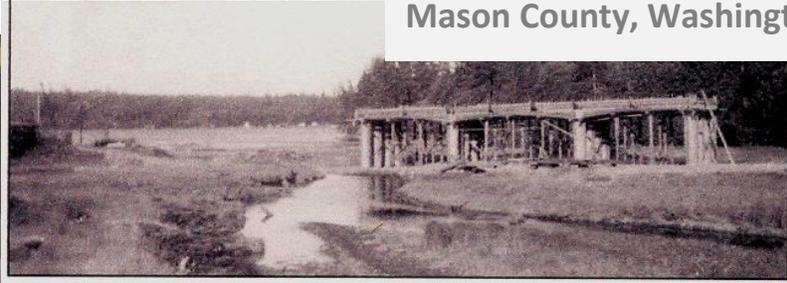




VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington



Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

What is the Voluntary Stewardship Program?

The Voluntary Stewardship Program, or “VSP”, was adopted in 2011 under the Washington Growth Management Act as an *alternative to traditional critical areas regulations*. It is based on a **Work Plan** that focuses on voluntary incentives to encourage good ecosystem stewardship instead of historic regulatory approaches used to protect critical areas on agricultural lands. Critical areas, described further below, generally support clean water, sustainable populations of salmon and shellfish, and healthy populations of plants and wildlife for the next generation of farmers and fishermen. Under this Program, farmers would operate *successful agricultural businesses* while taking the initiative to improve the environment on their land. These initiatives are primarily known as Best Management Practices, or Conservation Practices, and are already in use by farmers throughout the County.

In places where agricultural activities intersect with critical areas, the Program is intended to promote incentives for agricultural landowners and operators to *voluntarily enhance* the condition of critical areas through restoration projects and best management practices. A successful stewardship program would enable the community to apply cooperation, innovation, and effective action for the advancement of agriculture and the environment.

The VSP Work Plan

Mason County has an approved **Work Plan** for the Program that includes goals, benchmarks, and strategies for protecting and enhancing critical areas through voluntary, site-specific stewardship practices. The **Plan** is also focused on maintaining and enhancing the *long-term viability of agriculture* and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses. Specifically the **Plan** has four goals:

Goal 1 Protect Critical Area Functions and Values on Agricultural Lands at a Watershed Level As They Existed As Of July 22, 2011

Goal 2 Enhance Critical Area Functions And Values Through Voluntary, Incentive-Based Measures.

Goal 3 Ensure The Viability Of Agriculture And Reduce The Conversion Of Agricultural Land Into Other Uses.

Goal 4 Establish Baseline Monitoring Program To Measure Benchmarks Over A Ten Year Period.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

Under the Goals there are benchmarks and then a series of strategies designed to achieve them. While those terms sound fairly synonymous, they actually describe pieces of the **Work Plan's** procedural structure. In simpler terms, think of it like a menu. The goals establish the meal – breakfast, lunch, dinner, and desert. The benchmarks are the items you would order under each meal, and the strategies describe the ingredients that make up the meal. For instance, if the Goal is Lunch, then the Benchmark could be a Club Sandwich, and the Strategies would be the bread, lettuce, tomato, ham, turkey, bacon, and mayonnaise. All of this is designed to show the ultimate goal (lunch), and how (sandwich) and what (ingredients) we are going to do to achieve it. As long as we continue to achieve our goals, the program remains successful.

Fortunately, the work associated with the **Work Plan**, its implementation and monitoring, is the responsibility of the District. You, the volunteer farmer, are only as obligated as you choose to be utilizing a variety of available best management practices.

Implementation of the Program *requires only voluntary stewardship* as the primary method of protecting critical areas and may not require cessation of agricultural activities. Additionally, it may not require an agricultural operator to discontinue agricultural activities¹ or to even participate in the Program. Agricultural operators volunteering to participate may withdraw from the program at any time.

Commercial and noncommercial agricultural operators participating in the Program, however, and implementing an individual stewardship plan consistent with a **Work Plan** are presumed to be working toward the protection and enhancement of critical areas participating in the program and are eligible to receive funding and assistance under watershed programs. There are also *many funding opportunities* for farmers regardless of whether or not they participate in this program. Some of those are listed later.

What are Critical Areas?

Not everyone is familiar with what or where critical areas are in Mason County. The Program recognizes five different critical areas according to the Growth Management Act, and all five can be found here. These include: critical aquifer recharge areas (CARA), frequently flooded areas, wetlands, fish & wildlife habitat conservation areas, and geologically hazardous areas. In Mason County, geologically hazardous areas are divided into three subcategories: landslide hazard, seismic hazard, and erosion hazard areas. The following table indicates the total acreage of each critical area in the County and its proportional interface with agricultural lands.

¹ Legally existing prior to July 22, 2011

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

Critical Area "CA"	Total	Total Agriculture	Agriculture Interface	% Agriculture Interface	% CA Interface
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas	120,984	6,385	3,333	52%	3%
Frequently Flooded Areas	59,537	6,385	2,989	43%	5%
Landslide Hazard Areas	82,683	6,385	259	4%	0.3%
Seismic Hazard Areas	398,388	6,385	5,998	94%	1%
Erosion Hazard Areas	16,856	6,385	87	1%	0.5%
Fish & Wildlife Priority Species Habitat	35,856	6,385	1,784	28%	5%
Wetlands	54,656	6,385	1,147	18%	2%

Critical areas, as denoted above, support clean water and healthy plant and wildlife populations. Each is different in its make-up and functions, as well as how their associated protection measures. Below are brief descriptions of all five:



Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Surface waters replenish, “recharge”, aquifers through seepage from streams, lakes, and wetlands, and from precipitation that percolates through soil or rock. Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water, also called Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas or CARAs.

Photo: Oakland Bay, Courtesy of WA Department of Ecology

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington



Frequently Flooded Areas

Frequently flooded areas are lands in the flood plain subject to at least a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year, or within areas subject to flooding due to high groundwater.

Photo: Tahuya River, Courtesy of The Lunkers Guide



Landslide Hazard Areas

The risk of landslide occurrence depends on a number of factors including soil vulnerability, slope, and the degree of water saturation.

Photo: Highway 106 Landslide, Courtesy of KOMO 4 News

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington



Seismic Hazard Areas

Seismic hazards occur in areas subject to severe risk of earthquake damage as a result of seismic induced settlement or soil liquefaction.

Photo: Courtesy of <http://www.nbcrightnow.com>



Erosion Hazard Areas

Erosion is a natural process in which the land surface is worn away by the action of water, wind, ice or other geologic processes. The most common cause of erosion is water falling or flowing across the land.

Photo: Bulkhead, Courtesy of Mason CD

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington



Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas (FWHCA) are recognized for maintaining species in suitable habitats within their natural geographic distribution so that isolated populations are not created. They are both aquatic and terrestrial areas within the County

Photo: Courtesy of BeautifulWashington.com



Wetlands

Generally, wetlands are areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

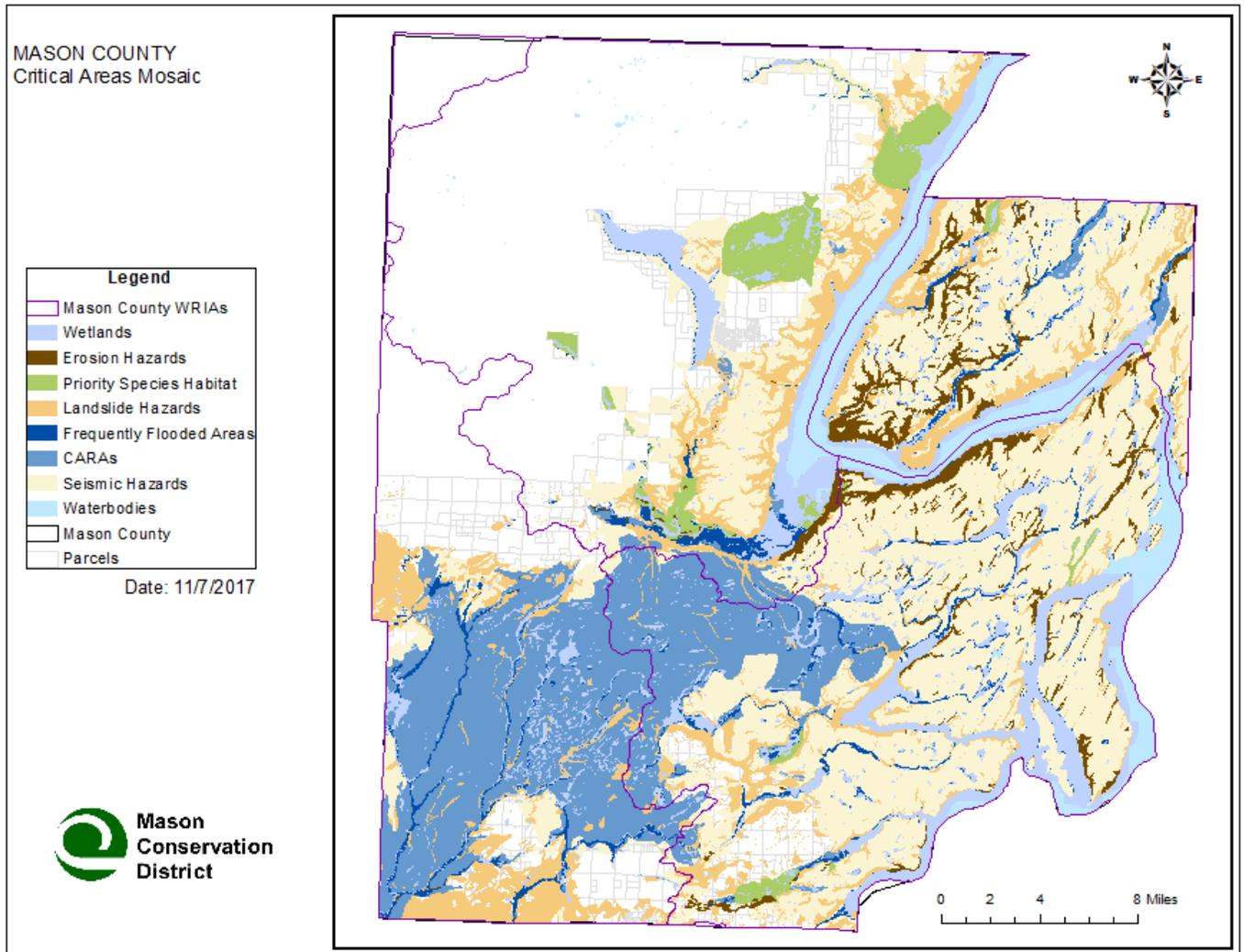
Photo: Thelar Wetlands, Courtesy of trevor.com

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

To give you an idea of where these areas are, this Critical Areas Mosaic Map illustrates a pattern of these areas across the County.



To find out if your agricultural operation has a critical area located on it, and to learn more about voluntary practices, the District has created a Checklist² that evaluates the **Work Plan's** goals together with the needs and objectives of the individual operator.

² The Mason County VSP ISP checklist contains a compilation of original and borrowed materials from checklists approved for other jurisdictions, including Pacific, Thurston, Yakima, and Grant. Our thanks and acknowledgement of their work.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

Property Information

The following checklist can be used to initiate an Individual Stewardship Plan (ISP) under the Voluntary Stewardship Program. This is a site-specific plan for individual agricultural operations that identifies agricultural activities and conservation practice options based on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation planning procedures. The ISP documents conservation practices to promote agricultural business viability while protecting and voluntarily enhancing critical areas. Completion of this survey will help the agricultural community in Mason County to meet its participation standards under the Program. This ISP survey will be used to assess trends in implementation of practices that support agricultural viability and critical area protection, and the individual results of this survey will be held in confidentiality by the Mason Conservation District. External reporting of the ISP results will only occur at the watershed scale.

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:

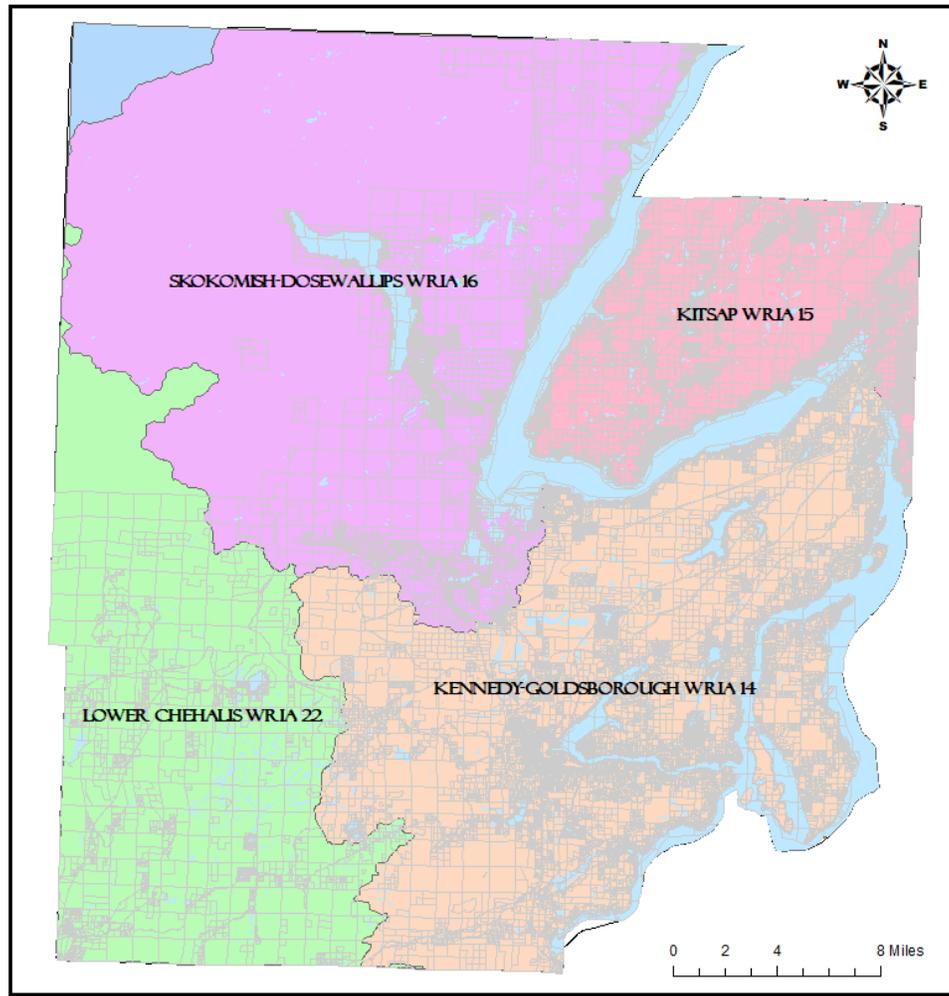
What products do you produce?

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

1. WHAT WRIA IS YOUR AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN?



Kennedy-Goldsborough WRIA 14

Kitsap WRIA 15

Skokomish-Dosewallips WRIA 16

Lower Chehalis WRIA 22

For online maps and to look up your parcel you can go to <http://www.geodata.org/>

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

2. IDENTIFY POTENTIAL CRITICAL AREAS ON, OR NEAR, PROPERTY:

- a. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
- b. Wetlands
- c. Frequently Flooded Areas
- d. Geologically Hazardous Areas
 - i. Landslide Hazards
 - ii. Seismic Hazards
 - iii. Erosion Hazards
- e. Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

Review critical area and agriculture maps at: www.XXX.XXX for potential critical areas on or near your property, such as ponds, streams, wetlands, steep slopes, etc. VSP is a voluntary and non-regulatory program. Checking one or more critical areas that may potentially be located on or adjacent to the property does not constitute an official determination of such a feature. It is helpful in filling out the rest of the checklist.

3. IDENTIFY YOUR CURRENT PARTICIPATION IN VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND AGRICULTURAL VIABILITY:

- EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- CStP - Conservation Stewardship Program
- EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- EWP FPE - Floodplain Easement
- FRPP - Farm & Ranchland Protection Program
- CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- ECP - Emergency Conservation Program
- Disaster Assistance Program (includes LFP- Livestock Forage Program)
- Mason County Open Space Tax Program
- Existing farm plan through the conservation district or NRCS

Other: _____

Try your best to answer the questions and a technical assistance provider can help you with the rest. An approved technical assistance provider (e.g. Mason Conservation District) can perform a site visit to verify the actual extent and location of critical areas on your property and help you develop an ISP for implementing conservation practices and maintaining or improving the long-term viability of your agricultural operations. This will be done through the use of online mapping tools and visual identification.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

Using the examples below, begin identifying conservation practices that you are already doing or that you are interested in discussing with your technical assistance provider to meet objectives of the VSP. The examples are only a few of the commonly used conservation practices that might be implemented in an ISP. Please indicate which conservation practices you are already doing (either before or after the July 22, 2011 baseline) or that you would like to implement, or if it is not applicable to your operation.

Several common conservation practices are listed below. For more information, criteria, and other practices please use the link in the footnote below to view the conservation practice standard in the Field Office Technical Guides.³

		FENCING
I did this before July 22, 2011	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I did this after July 22, 2011	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acres/Feet applied	_____	
I am interested in this	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I am not interested in this	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does not Apply	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Not Sure	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Definition: Constructed barrier to animals or people		
Purpose: Facilitates conservation objectives by providing means to control movement of animals and people, including vehicles.		
Conditions: may be applied on any area where management of animal or human movement is needed.		

³ <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

HEAVY USE PROTECTION AREA



Photo: Mason CD

- | | |
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| I am not interested in this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does not Apply | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not Sure | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Definition: Used to stabilize ground surface frequently and intensively used by people, animals, or vehicles.

Purpose: Provide stable, non-eroding surface for areas frequently used by animals, people, and vehicles; protect/improve water quality

Conditions: All land uses where frequently or intensively used area requires treatment to address one or more resource concerns.

SUBSURFACE DRAIN

- | | |
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| I did this after July 22, 2011 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Acres/Feet applied | _____ |
| I am interested in this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I am not interested in this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does not Apply | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not Sure | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Photo: Mason CD

Definition: Conduit installed beneath the ground surface to collect and/or convey excess water.

Purpose: Remove or distribute excessive soil water; remove salts and other contaminants from soil profile.

Conditions: Poor health, productivity of plants; poor field trafficability; accumulation of salts in root zone; health risk & livestock stress due to pests; wet soil conditions around farmsteads, structures, roadways. Applies where collected excess water distributed through subsurface water utilization or treatment area.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

COMPOSTING FACILITY

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: Structure/device to contain & facilitate controlled aerobic decomposition of organic material by microorganisms into biologically stable organic material suitable as a soil amendment.

Purpose: Reduce pollution potential and improve handling characteristics of organic waste solids; produce soil amendment that adds organic matter and beneficial organisms, provides slow-release plant-available nutrients, and improves soil condition.

Conditions: Agricultural production or processing waste; component of waste management system; constructed, operated & maintained without polluting resources; compost can be applied to land or marketed to public.

ACCESS CONTROL



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: Exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

Purpose: Monitor, manage intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, equipment with other practices of conservation plan.

Conditions: Applies to all land uses.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

FILTER STRIP

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation that removes contaminants from overland flow.

Purpose: Reduce suspended solids and contaminants in runoff; reduce dissolved contaminants in runoff; reduce suspended solids and contaminants in irrigation tailwater.

Conditions: Where environmentally sensitive areas need to be protected from sediment; other suspended solids and dissolved contaminants in runoff.

WASTE STORAGE STRUCTURE FACILITY



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: A waste storage impoundment made by constructing an embankment and/or excavating a pit or dugout, or by fabricating a structure.

Purpose: Temporarily store wastes, wastewater, and contaminated runoff as storage function component of agricultural waste management system.

Conditions: Component of waste management system; needed for agricultural production or processing wastes; constructed, operated, maintained without polluting resources; conditions suitable for construction.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

PASTURE/HAYLAND PLANTING



Photo: Mason CD

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

Purpose: Improve/maintain livestock nutrition and/or health; provide/increase forage supply; reduce soil erosion and improve soil and water quality; produce feedstock for biofuel or energy production; increase carbon sequestration.

Conditions: Applies to all lands suitable to establishment of annual, biennial or perennial species for forage or biomass production.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM: MICRO-IRRIGATION

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Photo: <https://www.indiamart.com/narmadapipes-r>

Definition: Frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface-as drops, tiny streams, or miniature spray through emitters or applicators laced along a water delivery line.

Purpose: Efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture; prevent contamination of ground and surface water.

Conditions: Where soils and topography are suitable for irrigation of crops and adequate supply of suitable quality water is available for the intended purpose(s).

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

PRESCRIBED GRAZING



Photo: Mason CD

- | | |
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| I am not interested in this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does not Apply | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not Sure | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Definition: Managing harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.

Purpose: Improve/maintain desired plant species composition; improve/maintain desired plant species composition; improve maintain quantity and quality of forage, water, riparian and watershed functions, and food/cover for wildlife; reduce accelerated soil erosion; manage fine fuels loads.

Conditions: Applies to all lands where grazing and/or browsing animals are managed.

FIELD BORDER

- | | |
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| I am not interested in this | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does not Apply | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not Sure | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Photo: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Definition: A strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field.

Purpose: Reduce wind/water erosion; protect soil/water quality; provide wildlife food and cover and pollinator or other beneficial organism habitat; increase carbon storage; improve air quality.

Conditions: Applied around inside perimeter of fields, can support or connect other practices, and applies to cropland and grazing lands.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

IRRIGATION SYSTEM: SPRINKLER



Photo: <http://www.gmoutlook.com/micro-sprinkler>

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: A distribution system that applies water by means of nozzles operated under pressure.

Purpose: Efficient, uniform water application; improve plant condition, productivity, health, vigor; prevent entry of excessive nutrients, organics, other chemicals in water; improve soil condition; reduce particulate matter emissions; reduce energy use.

Conditions: Applies to planning and functional design of sprinkler system components; areas must be suitable and have adequate water supply; applies to renozzling existing sprinkler systems to reduce pressure, reduce flow rate, increase distribution uniformity.

IRRIGATION WATER CONVEYANCE – PIPELINE: HIGH PRESSURE PLASTIC

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Photo: Mason CD

Definition: A pipeline and appurtenances installed to convey water for storage or application, as part of an irrigation water system.

Purpose: This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to achieve one or more of the following purposes: conveyance of water from a source of supply to an irrigation system or storage reservoir, reduce energy use, develop renewable energy systems.

Conditions: This standard applies to water conveyance and distribution pipelines installed above or below ground.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

RECREATION TRAIL AND WALKWAY



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: A trail is a constructed path with vegetated or earthen surface, a walkway is a constructed path with an artificial surface, both facilitate movement of animals, people, or off-road vehicles.

Purpose: Provide/improve animal access to forage, water, working/handling facilities, shelter; facilitate improved grazing; protect ecologically sensitive, erosive sites; provide pedestrian/off-road vehicle access to agricultural, construction, maintenance operations; provide for recreational activities or access to recreation sites.

Conditions: Applies on lands where management of animal/human movement is needed; applies to trail/walkway constructed for use by off-road vehicles.

SURFACE DRAINAGE – FIELD DITCH

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: A graded channel on the field surface for collecting excess water.

Purpose: Intercept excess surface and shallow subsurface water from a field, conveying it to a surface main or lateral; collect excess irrigation water for a tailwater reuse system.

Conditions: Soils with low permeability shallow barriers, which impede percolation of water to a deep stratum; surface depressions/barriers that trap rainfall; areas of insufficient land slope; excess runoff or seepage; excess irrigation water.

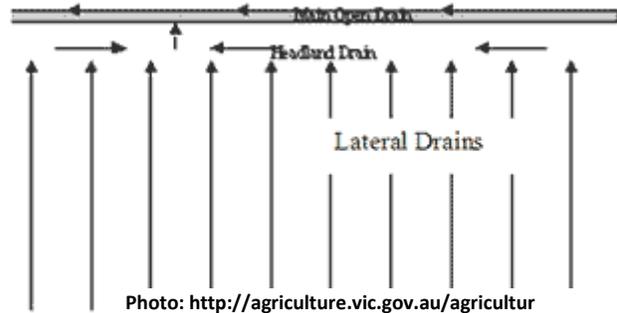
Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

SURFACE DRAINAGE – MAIN OR LATERAL

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: An open drainage ditch for moving excess water collected by a field ditch or subsurface drain to a safe outlet.

Purpose: Convey excess surface or shallow subsurface water from field ditch to safe outlet; convey excess subsurface water from subsurface drain to safe outlet.

Conditions: Applies to ditches that receive and convey water from surface and subsurface drains.

WASTE FACILITY COVER



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: A rigid, semi-rigid, or flexible manufactured membrane, composite material or roof structure placed over a wage management facility, agrichemical handling facility, or an on-farm secondary containment facility.

Purpose: Protect clean water in existing or planned animal waste handling or storage area; improve waste management and utilization; capture biogas emissions from an existing or planned animal waste storage facility; protect clean water by excluding it from a chemically contaminated area.

Conditions: Precipitation should be excluded from contaminated areas; porous cover on wastewater storage facility improves air quality, limit odors, moderates net effect of greenhouse gas emissions; biogas capture and utilization improves air quality, limits odors, and reduces net effect of greenhouse gas emissions.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

WATERING FACILITY

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: A means of providing drinking water to livestock or wildlife.

Purpose: Supply daily water requirements; improve animal distribution; provide water source as alternative to sensitive resource

Conditions: Applies where there is a need; where there is a source of water that is adequate for the purpose; where soils and topography are suitable.

HEDGEROW PLANTING



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: Establishment of dense vegetation in a linear design to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose.

Purpose: Food, cover, corridors for terrestrial wildlife, and aquatic organisms that live in streams; improve water quality and aquatic habitat in ditches and channels; living fences; boundary delineation; intercept airborne particulate matter; reduce chemical drift, odor movement; increase carbon storage in biomass and soils, contour guidelines; screens and barriers to noise, dust; improve landscape appearance.

Conditions: Applies wherever it will accomplish at least one of the purposes.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

HERBACEOUS WEED CONTROL

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious, and prohibited plants.

Purpose: Enhance accessibility, quantity, quality of forage and/or browse; restore or release plant communities and wildlife habitats consistent with the ecological site; protect soils, control erosion; reduce fine-fuels fire hazard and improve air quality.

Conditions: Lands except active cropland where removal, reduction or manipulation of herbaceous vegetation is desired.

RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.

Purpose: Create shade to lower, maintain water temperatures; provide source of detritus; reduce excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff and in shallow ground water flow; reduce pesticide drift; restore riparian plant communities; increase carbon storage in plant biomass and soils.

Conditions: Riparian forest buffers and applied on areas adjacent to permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. They are not applied to stabilize stream banks or shorelines.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & MANAGEMENT



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: Maintain, improve, restore physical, chemical, biological functions of stream and associated riparian zone.

Purpose: Provide suitable aquatic habitat; maintain stream corridor ecological processes and hydrological connections of diverse stream habitat types important to aquatic species.

Conditions: All streams and their adjoining backwaters, floodplains, associated wetlands, and riparian areas where reproduction, growth, survival, diversity is limited.

TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

Purpose: Establish woody plants for: forest products, habitat, long-term erosion control and water quality, treat waste, store carbon in biomass, reduce energy use, develop renewable energy systems, improve and restore natural diversity, and enhance aesthetics.

Conditions: Applied on any appropriately prepared site where woody plants can be grown.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION



Photo: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

Purpose: Encourage natural regeneration; permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

Conditions: All lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs.

WETLAND RESTORATION

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: The return of a wetland and its functions to a close approximation of its original condition as it existed prior to disturbance on a former or degraded wetland site.

Purpose: Restore conditions conducive to hydric soil maintenance, wetland hydrology, native hydrophytic vegetation, original fish and wildlife habitats.

Conditions: Applies only to natural wetland sites with hydric soils which have been subject to the degradation and where the natural hydrologic conditions can be approximated to the original natural conditions.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

ROOF RUNOFF STRUCTURE

Photo: Mason CD



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: A structure that will collect, control and convey precipitation runoff from a roof.

Purpose: Protect surface water quality by excluding roof runoff from contaminated areas; protect structure foundation from water damage or soil erosion from excess water runoff; increase infiltration of runoff water; capture water for other uses.

Conditions: Where roof runoff needs to be: diverted from contaminated area or structure foundation; collected, conveyed to stable outlet or infiltration area; collected, captured for evaporative cooling systems, livestock water and irrigation.

STREAM CROSSING

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: A stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.

Purpose: Access to another land unit; improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient, organic and inorganic loading; reduce streambank and streambed erosion.

Conditions: All land uses where an intermittent or perennial watercourse exists and a ford, bridge, or culvert type crossing is needed.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT



- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure

Definition: Managing the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application), and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments.

Purpose: Budget, supply, and conserve nutrients; minimize agricultural nonpoint source pollution; properly utilize manure or organic byproducts; protect air quality; maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil.

Conditions: All lands where plant nutrients and soil amendments are applied.

SILVO-PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT

- I did this before July 22, 2011
- I did this after July 22, 2011
- Acres/Feet applied _____
- I am interested in this
- I am not interested in this
- Does not Apply
- Not Sure



Definition: An application establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage.

Purpose: Provide forage for livestock and wood products; increase carbon sequestration; improve water quality; reduce erosion; enhance wildlife habitat; reduce fire hazard; provide shade for livestock; develop renewable energy systems.

Conditions: Pasture where trees or shrubs can be added; forest where forages can be added; land on which neither the desired trees nor forages exist in sufficient quantity to meet the land user's objectives.

The VSP is designed to promote the viability of agriculture over the long term and to avoid unnecessary local critical area regulations due to the prevalence of conservation practices undertaken by willing producers. Farmer and agricultural operators may find funding programs,

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Individual Stewardship Plan Checklist

Mason County, Washington

as previously discussed, and request a field visit to obtain advice on improving viability and to recommended conservation practices.

4. 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 www.masoncd.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 Mason County VSP Coordinator:

Barbara Adkins, AICP
Special Programs Manager
Mason Conservation District
450 W. Business Park Road
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 427-9436