

Attachment 1

Columbia County Voluntary Stewardship Program Project Application



The Columbia County VSP offers an incentive-based approach to garner voluntary involvement in protecting critical areas while enhancing the long-term success and viability of agricultural production in Columbia County. The VSP is currently accepting applications for cost-share projects that help producers address agricultural impacts to critical areas on their property.

- The application deadline is December 31, 2019 with project awards being announced by January 31, 2020.
- Cost-sharing matches range from 50% to 75%.
- All projects will be considered but priority will be given to projects for which no additional outside funding is available.
- Priority will be given to projects that positively impact more than one critical area.

PRODUCER INFORMATION			
Name:	Email:		
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
What form of communication do you prefer? Phone ____ Email ____ Mail ____			
PROJECT INFORMATION			
Please clearly describe your project and how the project protects or enhances a critical area while maintaining agricultural viability (space will expand as you type). <i>Example: Installation of four livestock watering stations will redirect livestock access to streams. Reducing access will prevent runoff of animal waste to streams and reduce stream bank erosion. Livestock will benefit from clean, dependable drinking water.</i>			
Describe the specific location of the project.			
Quantity impacted (acres/feet/units)			
What critical areas will be impacted? (See last page for description) See map layers at Mapseed (columbiacountyvsp.mapseed.org) to determine if your project lies within one of the critical areas listed below or call the Planning Department at 509-382-4676 for assistance.)			

Critical Areas	Is your project located in a critical area?	Does your project indirectly impact a critical area?
Wetlands		
Frequently Flooded Areas		
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas		
Geologically Hazardous Areas		
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas		
Describe the critical areas impacted in more detail (e.g. size of area, river or stream length impacted, fish and wildlife species, etc.)		
Will you be able to measure the success of this project in protecting or enhancing a critical area(s)? If so, how?		
Are you aware of other funding for this project or are you currently participating in a cost-share program for this project? If so, describe the funding agreement. (Note: participation in another cost-share program does not automatically disqualify you from VSP funds.)		
What are your expected project start and completion dates?		
What is the expected budget for this project and how is it broken down?		
How sustainable will this project be following the initial VSP funding? Will it require ongoing maintenance?		

The goal of the Columbia County VSP is to enhance or maintain baseline functions and values of the county’s critical areas while maintaining agricultural viability. Critical areas include:

- **Wetlands:** Areas inundated by surface water or groundwater for at least part of the growing season and which support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
- **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas:** Lands and waters that provide habitat to support fish and wildlife species throughout their life stages.
- **Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas:** Areas that have a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for drinking water, including aquifers vulnerable to contamination.

- **Geologically Hazardous Areas:** Areas susceptible to erosion, sliding, and other geological events. In Columbia County, geologic hazards related to agricultural activities are primarily associated with erosion.
- **Frequently Flooded Areas:** Includes floodplains and floodways and often includes the low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and lakes that are prone to inundation during heavy rains and snowmelt.

Questions? Contact Dena Martin at dena_martin@co.columbia.wa.us or 509-382-4676.