

Voluntary Stewardship Program

December 21, 2020

5-year Report & Program Update

Prepared by Amy Martin, Okanogan CD



VSP Background

- July 2011: RCW 36.70A.720 defines protection date baseline for critical areas on agricultural land
- Dec. 2015: VSP funds available to the County
- Sept. 2018: Okanogan County VSP Work Plan approved
- June 2019: Biennial Report completed
- **Dec. 28, 2020: 5-Year Report due**

5-Year Report

- Based on the 5 years since 'receipt of funding' 12/28/2015
 - However, our Work Plan identifies 2011 as the baseline for practice implementation and effectiveness monitoring.
- Reviewed by the State Advisory Committee and Technical Panel for whether we're meeting our Work Plan benchmarks and the results of effectiveness monitoring.

5-Year Report

- 5-year Report Components (Access Database):
 - Protection Benchmarks, (organized by WRIA)
 - Participation Benchmarks
 - Effectiveness Monitoring for the Critical Areas

Additional VSP Work Plan reporting:

- Agricultural Viability

Click on a row for Goal/Benchmark/Critical Area/WRIA Select Preferred Column Order

Goal	Benchmark	Critical Area	WRIA	# Strategies/Metrics
1 - Protect critical areas through voluntary measures.	1 - No net loss of acres/feet of soil management practices.	Critical Aquifer Recharge	48 - Methow	
1 - Protect critical areas through voluntary measures.	1 - No net loss of acres/feet of soil management practices.	Critical Aquifer Recharge	49 - Okanogan	
1 - Protect critical areas through voluntary measures.	1 - No net loss of acres/feet of soil management practices.	Critical Aquifer Recharge	50 - Foster	
1 - Protect critical areas through voluntary measures.	1 - No net loss of acres/feet of soil management practices.	Critical Aquifer Recharge	51 - Nespelem	
1 - Protect critical areas through voluntary measures.	1 - No net loss of acres/feet of soil management practices.	Critical Aquifer Recharge	52 - Sanpoil	

Record: 1 of 420 No Filter Search

Then, add Strategies, Performance Metrics, etc.

Description	Accomplishment	Status
-------------	----------------	--------

Protection Benchmarks

DRAFT Implementation Benchmarks for the Voluntary Stewardship Program 5-Year Report, Dec. 18, 2020						
Management Type	NRCS Code	Key Stewardship Practices	2021 Target Protection Benchmark (10-year ¹)	5-year Implementation 10-yr Benchmark/2	2016-2020 Implementation ²	Adaptive Management Action
Soil Management	328	Conservation Crop Rotation	270 Ac	135	1550	Annual metric exceeded No Action
	340	Cover Crop				
	329	Residue and Till Management, No Till				
	484	Mulching				
Water Management	449	Irrigation Water Management	270 ac	135	1386	Annual metric exceeded No Action
	442	Sprinkler System				
	533	Pumping Plant	1 each	.5 (planning)	13	
Nutrient Management	590	Nutrient Management	285 ac	143	1034	Annual metric exceeded No Action
	317	Composting Facility				
	316	Animal Mortality Facility			1	
Pest Management	595	Integrated Pest Management	2220 ac	1,110.00	2,597	Annual metric exceeded
Range Management	528	Range Planting	3,500 ac	1,750	46136	Annual metric exceeded No Action *Re-Evaluate the "Access Road" metric
	516	Prescribed Grazing			32	
	614	Watering Facility	7 each	3.5		
	574	Spring Developments				
	560	Access Road	70 feet	35	0	
	472	Access Control				
Habitat Management	327	Conservation Cover	1,760 ac	880	1,127	Annual metric exceeded No Action Needed
	342	Critical Area Planting				
	395	Stream Habitat Improvement				
	NA	Channel Stabilization	1.7 miles	0.85	3.0	Consider reporting forest management practices.
	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment				
	643	Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats				
	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management				
	734	Fish and Wildlife Structure	1.00	.5 (planning)	535	
	NA	Fish Screens	0.00	<1 (planning)	1	
578	Culvert/Bridge/Stream Crossings Upgrades	0.00	<1 (planning)	8	Annual metric exceeded, No Action	

Protection Benchmarks

- The protection benchmark goals for implemented practices have all been achieved for the 5-year reporting period
- Implementing these practices demonstrates critical area protection, based on NRCS 'Conservation Practice Physical Effects' data

Resource Concerns FY2021				Sheet and rill erosion		Wind erosion		Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels
Practice	Lead Discipline(s)	Practice Code	Unit	Effect	Rationale	Effect	Rationale	Effect
Access Road (ft)	CED-AE	560	ft.	Slight Improvement	A surfaced access road will be less erosive.	No Effect	Winds acting on the road edges that are routinely graded may cause saltation, creep, and suspension of soil.	No Effect
Cover Crop (ac)	ESD-Agron	340	ac.	Moderate to Substantial Improvement	Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment by water.	Moderate to Substantial Improvement	Increased cover during erosive periods will reduce soil detachment by wind.	No Effect
Irrigation Water Management (ac)	CED-WME & ESD-Agon	449	ac.	No Effect	Not Applicable	Slight to Moderate Improvement	Managing water to maintain surface moisture reduces soil detachment by wind.	No Effect
Prescribed Grazing (ac)	ESD-GLS	528	ac.	Moderate to Substantial Improvement		Moderate to Substantial Improvement	Improving the health and vigor of plant communities will increase vegetative cover and decrease	Moderate Improvement

Protection Benchmarks

Sorted by WRIA

Type	unit	Foster Creek	Okanogan	Methow	San Poil	Kettle Falls	Lower Lake Roosevelt
Soil	ac	997	484	69	0	0	0
Water	ac	0	1,124	263	0	0	0
Water	ea	0	12	1	0	0	0
Water	ea	0	12	1	0	0	0
Nutrient	ac	0	943	91	0	0	0
Pest	ac	0	2,596	1	0	0	0
Range	ac	0	41,401	3,435	0	1,300	0
Range	ea	2	29	1	0	0	0
Range	ft	0	0	0	0	0	0
Habitat	ac	0	662	465	0	0	0
Habitat	ea	0	511	24	0	0	0
Habitat	ft	0	2.3	0.6	0	0	0
Percent of Okanogan County Agricultural Lands		9%	71%	8%	2%	7%	1%

Forest health practices are more common in San Poil and Kettle WRIAs, but not identified in our plan as stewardship practices (yet!)

Effectiveness Monitoring

Relying on existing reports and trend monitoring

Fish & Wildlife HCAs

- Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse population (Tunk Valley)
- Colville Tribes' habitat trend monitoring
- Game species show neutral/positive trends
- In-stream flows improved through significant efficiency projects: Methow, Loup Loup, Salmon Creek, etc.

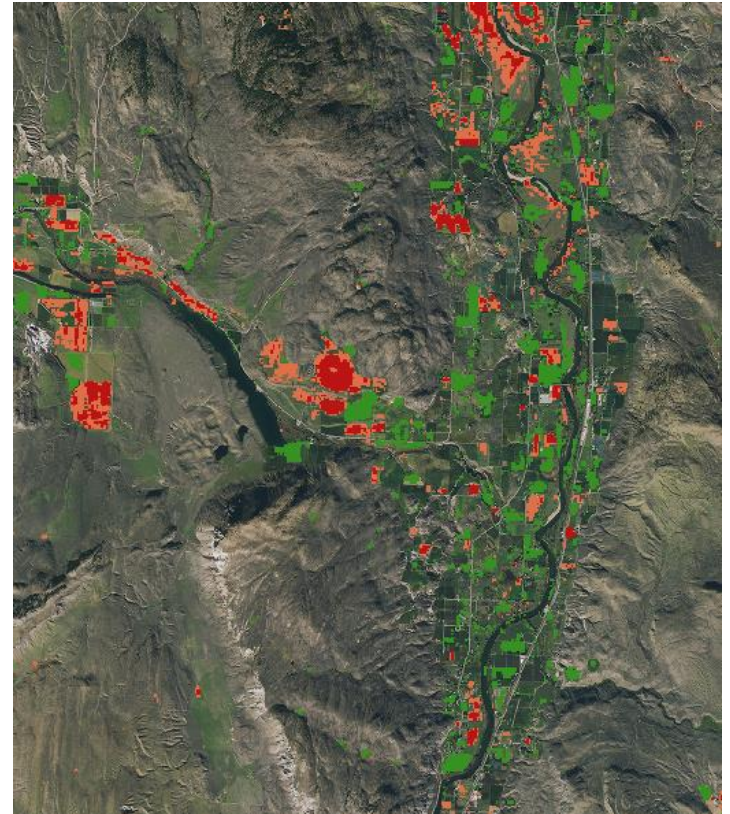
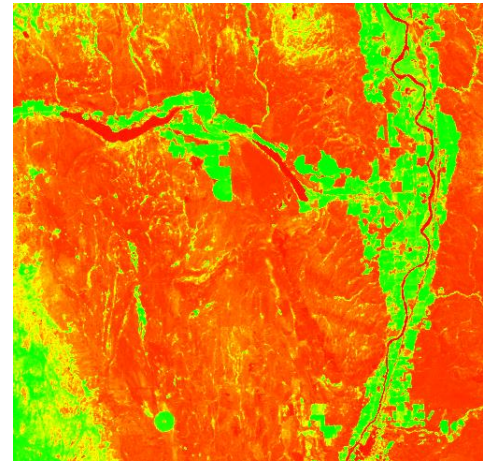
Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

- Groundwater quality sampling

Effectiveness Monitoring

Wetlands, Geologically Hazardous areas and Floodplains

- Low resolution vegetation change detection for green/brown
- Overlaid with critical area maps to review change



Adaptive Management Recommendations

Benchmarks

- Re-engage with the Colville Confederated Tribes. Update the Work Plan to clarify the Tribes' jurisdiction over critical areas within the Reservation (similar to other County plans and agreements).
- Add forest health activities as stewardship practices that protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.
- Re-evaluate Access Road metric (range).
- Improve conservation practice documentation throughout the year.

Adaptive Management Recommendations

Participation and Outreach

- Gain additional VSP Work Group members to maintain representation of the County.
- Improve awareness of VSP.
- Edit the Stewardship Checklist and encourage more voluntary reporting.



Adaptive Management Recommendations

Effectiveness Monitoring

- Consider pursuing funding for additional monitoring strategies:
 - Range inventory & analysis
 - Stream water and lake quality monitoring
 - Wetland condition
- Learn from the 5-Year Report review process and adapt the monitoring strategies.



Stay Tuned

Still updating effectiveness monitoring sections

VSP Work Group meets Dec. 22 at 6 pm to review the benchmarks and monitoring inputs for the 5-Year Report database.

