

# DRAFT

## FERRY COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2012-01 VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature, through Engrossed Substitute House Bill (EHSB) 1886, effective July 22, 2011, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) for protection of critical areas on lands where agricultural activities occur; and

WHEREAS, counties must choose to either opt in to the VSP or resume the process of updating their Critical Areas Ordinance as it relates to agricultural activities under the current Growth Management Act guidelines; and

WHEREAS, prior to deciding whether to opt into the VSP, counties are required to confer with tribes, environmental and agricultural interests in an open and transparent manner consistent with the requirements of ESHB 1886; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry County Board of Commissioners held an informational meeting on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to disperse information to, and take comments from the public; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry County Board of Commissioners participated in an open public meeting consisting of three Eastern Washington Counties ( Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille) on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to further discuss the VSP; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry County Board of Commissioners provided notice to the Colville Confederated Tribes on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and requested any tribal concerns in regards to the VSP; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry County Board of Commissioners held a stakeholder meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to address the concerns of the agricultural and environmental communities, as well as the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry County Board of Commissioners believe that opting the entire county into the VSP is in the best interest of the Citizens of Ferry County; and

WHEREAS, the Ferry County Board of Commissioners nominate Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 60 as a priority watershed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ferry County Board of Commissioners officially elects to opt into the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP).