

RESOLUTION
of Order of Board of County Commissioners
GARFIELD COUNTY

In the matter of the Opting-Into the Ruckelshaus Voluntary Stewardship Program Consistent with ESHB-1886

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD:
THAT:

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature through ESHB 1886-RCW 36.70A, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) as an alternative to the mandated update of their critical areas ordinances, under RCW 36.70A, as it concerns the protection of critical areas related to agricultural activities, and

WHEREAS, the Garfield County Commissioners have voluntarily elected to participate in the VSP ESHB-1886 alternative, and must adopt a resolution to opt in by January 22, 2012, and

WHEREAS, prior to opting into VSP, the county is required confer with tribes, environmental, and agricultural interests in an open and transparent manner, consistent with the requirements of ESHB-1886, and provide public notice to the property owners, and other interested stakeholders, before opting into the program, and

WHEREAS, Garfield County Board of Commissioners in cooperation with planning staff, the Farm Bureau, Washington State Conservation Commission, and WSAC, advertised a workshop in the Pomeroy East Washingtonian newspaper, for December 12, 2012, at the County Courthouse, and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners did conduct a workshop on December 12, 2011, with agriculture interests, landowners, local conservation commission members, and other interested stakeholders, and this workshop considered all options to be in compliance with ESHB-1886 to protect critical areas with respect to agricultural activities within the unincorporated area of Garfield County, and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners advertised in the East Washingtonian newspaper, and conducted a public hearing on January 3, 2012, to hear all verbal and written comments from affected stakeholders pertaining to VSP ESHB-1886 and opting into the Program.

WHEREAS, The County has identified the priority watersheds and resource lands within Garfield County in the counties critical areas ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Garfield County Board of Commissioners officially elect to opt into the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), as referred to by ESHB-1886, and RCW36.70A relating to the protection of critical areas as they pertain to agricultural activities, in lieu of an update to the Garfield County critical area ordinances as it pertains to agricultural activities and adopts the following guidelines:

1. Garfield County identifies the Pataha watershed, Deadman watershed, the Meadow Creek watershed, the Alpowa Creek watershed and the Snake River watershed in Garfield County to be recommended to the State Conservation Commission as State priority watersheds.
2. Elect to have Garfield County, proceed, as required by ESHB-1886 and RCW 36.70A to implement the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program, only after the Washington State Legislature or State Agency provides adequate funding for the implement of the VSP program, with the understanding that no Garfield County funds will be used for this program.
3. According to ESHB-1886 and RCW 36.70A the participation by landowners and stakeholders is voluntary and will not be subject to penalties for not participating in the Voluntary Stewardship Program as adopted by the County.

The foregoing resolution is hereby made this 17th day of January, 2012

ATTEST:

Donna J Deal
Clerk of the Board

Robert H Johnson
Chairman Board of County Commissioners.
W. J. [Signature]
County Commissioner.

County Commissioner.