

# June 2018 VSP Newsletter

This is the monthly installment of a Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) newsletter. Please sign up to receive the newsletter [here](#). Feedback is welcome – please direct it to [Bill Eller](#).

**ASOTIN COUNTY VSP WORK PLAN APPROVED:** Asotin County's VSP work plan was approved by the Technical Panel on May 25, 2018. VSP work plans can be found on the Commission's VSP web page [here](#). Congratulations to Asotin County's work group for their hard work and effort!

**SUBMITTAL OF VSP WORK PLANS TO THE COMMISSION:** Due dates to submit work plans for the remaining counties are as follows:

Cowlitz – June 22, 2018  
Okanogan – June 28, 2018  
Pend Oreille – August 2, 2018  
Ferry – September 14, 2018  
Grays Harbor – September 21, 2018  
Lewis – October 18, 2018  
Spokane – October 22, 2018  
Adams – November 23, 2018

The Commission has set up a schedule for the formal submittal of VSP work plans. Counties wishing to formally submit work plans must contact [Bill Eller](#) at the Commission before submitting their work plans so that the plan can be assigned in the schedule. If you have not already done so, please contact [Bill Eller](#) at 509-385-7512 or by email at [beller@scc.wa.gov](mailto:beller@scc.wa.gov) to schedule the submittal of your county's work plan.

*Action by Work Group on Work Plan:* Remember, the action the VSP work group needs to take in sending the work plan to the Commission is that the work group should move

to submit the work plan to the Commission and VSP Technical Panel, not “approve” the work plan.

*Technical Panel Review Process:* The Technical Panel typically has at least two meetings during the review process. The first meeting is the first time the Technical Panel has an opportunity to discuss the work plan amongst themselves as they can only talk about the plans amongst themselves during an open public meeting. They also make oral comments on the work plan during that initial meeting. A representative from the submitting work group is asked to attend and make a brief presentation (30 minutes) on the work plan goals and benchmarks. After that initial meeting, the Technical Panel members work to craft written agency comments that are compiled by the Commission and supplied back to the work group that submitted the plan. Then, at the next Technical Panel meeting on the work plan, the Technical Panel considers the work plan in light of the written comments the members made. Sometimes more than two meetings are needed to complete the review process.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE VSP TECHNICAL PANEL AND STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** The VSP Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee continue to update their meeting schedules. The most complete and up-to-date meeting schedule and meeting agendas can always be found on the [Technical Panel web page](#) and the [Statewide Advisory Committee web page](#). All meetings will be held at the Farm Bureau building, 975 Carpenter Rd NE #101, Lacey, WA 98516, unless otherwise noted. Each meeting is also available by webinar.

The next meeting of the VSP Technical Panel will be Tuesday, June 19, 2018. To register for the webinar, please use the link below:

Joint Technical Panel and Statewide Advisory Committee meeting **on June 19, 2018 8:00 AM PST** at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8821664752856377345>

**WDFW SEEKS COMMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS:** The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking comments through **July 17, 2018** on their draft guidance for riparian ecosystems. They are taking public comments at [https://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/mgmt\\_recommendations/comments.html](https://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/mgmt_recommendations/comments.html). The WDFW is reaching out to VSP work groups, farmers, and ranchers and they want to know

- Does the document help you understand what management actions you can take to achieve no net loss of riparian ecological functions while sustaining agricultural activities? How could this document do a better job of this?
- With some technical assistance from your local WDFW Habitat Biologist, do you think you could identify and take the next steps to implement these riparian management recommendations? If not, what additional information would be helpful along these lines?
- Are there important topics missing from Volume 2?
- WDFW continues to strive to be respectful and supportive of the conservation practices of VSP Groups, farmers, and ranchers. Are there any instances where the document's tone comes across as anything other than respectful or helpful?

The document is at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01988/>.

WDFW's press release regarding this is at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/may1718b/>.

**If you have any questions about this, please contact Keith Folkerts**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Priority Habitats and Species Section Manager, Land Use Policy Lead, Office (360) 902-2390, Cell (360) 628-6757, [Keith.Folkerts@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Keith.Folkerts@dfw.wa.gov).

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