



SKAGIT COUNTY Voluntary Stewardship Program

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) provides incentives to agricultural producers who choose to implement natural resource enhancement on their property. VSP is the alternative approach to regulatory enforcement of Washington state's Critical Areas ordinance on agricultural lands with emphasis on supporting agricultural productivity. VSP provides an opportunity for the agricultural community to work together to promote effective, locally-tailored natural resource protection while preserving agricultural viability.

WHAT ARE CRITICAL AREAS?

Areas protected for essential ecological functions under the Washington's Growth Management Act including:

- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Areas
- Wetlands
- Frequently Flooded Areas
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Geologically Hazardous Areas

Skagit County is especially focused on improving habitat of salmon and reducing the risk of heavy flooding and erosion for property owners.

Scan the QR code to view the Skagit County VSP Work Plan



WHAT WOULD VSP LOOK LIKE ON MY PROPERTY?

The VSP coordinator connects participants with incentive-based programs that meet their needs and resource protection goals. These existing programs include the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Skagit County's Natural Resource Stewardship Program, and more. Participants develop a management plan tailored to their property with technical support from local partners.

Potential projections include:

- Planting native trees and shrubs adjacent to waterways
- Installing fencing to exclude livestock from waterways
- Installing in-stream structures to provide habitat and reduce streambank erosion

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