

**Pend Oreille County Voluntary Stewardship Program
Working Group Meeting Summary
February 25, 2016**

On Thursday February 25th, 2016 the Pend Oreille County Community Development Department hosted the second in a series of monthly meetings in support of the County's Voluntary Stewardship Program. The following is a brief summary of the meeting.

Participants:

County Commissioner Karen Skoog
Andy Huddleston, Pend Oreille County Assistant Planner
Cesar Stoddard, Pend Oreille County Planner/GIS Technician
Gregg Dohrn, County Planning Consultant
Bart George, Kalispell Tribe
Tim Laysen, Selkirk Conservation Alliance
Amanda Parish, Lands Council
Travis Hanson, Land Owner
Ron Meyer, Ag Producer
Tom Eagle, Ag Producer

Meeting Summary

Andy Huddleston welcomed all of the participants and then introduced the County planning consultant Gregg Dohrn who provided a brief overview of the VSP and then facilitated the meeting. Cesar Stoddard then presented and explained a series of maps that have been prepared to support the VSP planning process. This included:

Agricultural Lands. This map highlights parcels in the county identified by the County Assessor's Office as having agriculture as a primary or secondary activity. There are over 572 parcels of designated agricultural lands in the county totaling more than 35,000 acres.

Agricultural Lands and Jurisdictional Shoreline Areas Map. This map highlights parcels used for agricultural activities that also include shorelines under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA). Existing agricultural activities are not, for the most part subject to the permitting requirements of the SMA but shorelines perform important ecological functions.

Agricultural Lands and Wetlands. This map highlights parcels used for agricultural activities that also include designated wetlands subject to protection under the Washington State Growth Management Act.

Agricultural Lands and Named Streams. This map highlights parcels used for agricultural activities that also include named streams that may be subject to protection under the Washington State Growth Management Act.

Agricultural Lands and Frequently Flooded Areas. This map highlights parcels used for agricultural activities that also include lands designated by the Federal emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

as of 1998 (Q3 and not FIRM) and subject to protection under the Washington State Growth Management Act.

During the presentation of the maps and the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

1. The County is still working on a map that highlights the intersection of selected priority habitat areas and agricultural lands.
 - a. Bull trout, Cutthroat, and riparian zones.
2. The County is exploring options with Spokane Community College for the mapping of aquifer recharge zones.
3. In addition to the map highlighting named streams, the County also has a map that highlights unnamed streams and participants were encouraged to note any unnamed streams that might be appropriate to add to the map highlighting the intersection of streams and agriculture.
4. The adverse environmental impacts that knapweed is causing, especially erosion in areas with steep slopes was discussed.
5. A more detailed portrait of Agriculture was requested by the group. Different kinds of agriculture warrant different kinds of protection. A specific request was made of the county if they could give the workgroup an idea of the number of cattle in POC.
6. In response to a question, it was suggested that perhaps the protection of agriculture in the County could be measured through a periodic survey of farmers.
 - a. It was noted that the USDA conducts an annual survey of agriculture in the County.
7. It was noted that the Kalispell Tribe regularly monitors a number of environmental indicators that may be useful in documenting whether environmentally sensitive areas in the County are being protected.
 - a. Water temperature is a particular concern on the Pend Oreille River and its tributaries.
8. It was also noted the Pend Oreille PUD and Seattle City Light conduct regular monitoring activities on the Pend Oreille River in conjunction with their federal licenses to operate the Box Canyon and Boundary Dams.
9. It was announced that the next meeting will be at the Cusick Senior Center on Thursday March 24th at 5:30 pm.
 - a. Participants were encouraged to notify others of the meeting and to provide email addresses of friends and associates so they can receive VSP announcements.

10. Potential agenda items at the next meeting may include:

- a. Status report on the Chelan County Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- b. Update on mapping.
- c. Continued discussion of potential benchmarks for the preservation of agriculture and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.