

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) A watershed group designated by a county
2 under section 5 of this act must develop a work plan to protect
3 critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the
4 watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the
5 protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and
6 implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:

7 (a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed
8 management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;

9 (b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;

10 (c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators
11 conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the
12 watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks
13 of the work plan;

14 d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to
15 agricultural operators in the watershed;

16 (e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the
17 receipt of funding, are designed to result in (i) the protection of
18 critical area functions and values and (ii) the enhancement of critical
19 area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;

20 (f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical
21 assistance;

22 (g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure
23 that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and
24 benchmarks of the work plan;

25 (h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development
26 regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for
27 protection;

28 (i) Establish baseline monitoring for: (i) Participation
29 activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and
30 projects; (ii) stewardship activities; and (iii) the effects on
31 critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protection and
32 enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;

33 (j) Conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management,
34 and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments
35 to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of
36 each biennium;

37 (k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and

38 (l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.

Thurston VSP "Buckets"

- A. Review and Incorporate Data and Plans
- B. Seek Input from Tribes, Agencies, Stakeholders
- C. Develop participation goals to meet benchmarks
- D. Ensure outreach & technical assistance are provided
- E. Create measurable benchmarks designed to (through voluntary, incentive programs):
 - a. Protect critical area functions and values
 - b. Enhance critical area functions and values
- F. Designate technical assistance entity(s)
- G. Work with technical assistor to make sure individual stewardship plans contribute to goals
- H. Incorporate existing regulations (if relied upon)
- I. Establish baseline monitoring for:
 - a. Participation & Implementation
 - b. Stewardship activities
 - c. Effects on Critical Areas & Agriculture
- J. Conduct periodic evaluations (adaptive management) & report each biennium
- K. Assist state agency monitoring programs
- L. Meet Program reporting requirements