



Do I Need a Critical Area Farm Plan?

Or Does My Farm Qualify For The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)?



Photo Credit: Sarah Hamman

Is This You?



Existing Farm Since July 24, 2012:

- Conducting agricultural operations,
- Producing, breeding or increasing farm products and livestock,
- Rotating and changing crops,
- Maintaining & replacing farm equipment, and /or
- Maintaining & replacing buildings, fences, roadways and ditches within existing facility footprint.

Your farm qualifies for the VSP! Fill out the VSP [Checklist](#) through Thurston Conservation District to enroll and get an Individual Stewardship Plan (ISP).

VSP provides farmers practical guidance and the potential for financial incentives to protect critical areas on their farm landscape. Land can lie fallow or dormant for up to 5 years due to adverse market conditions or if the land is enrolled in a conservation program.

Is This You?



New Farm, New *Facility OR Expansion AND
**Includes buildings, fences, roadways and ditches.*



Your Property Has Critical Areas.

What Are Critical Areas?

**1) Wetlands 2) Frequently Flooded Areas
3) Aquifer Recharge Areas 4) Geologically Hazardous Areas 5) Fish & Wildlife Habitats**

[Critical Areas Ordinance](#)

You will need a [Critical Area Farm \(CAF\) plan](#). The conservation planning approach offers site-specific recommendations tailored to your farm site rather than standard critical area rules & protections.

Operators can work with technical consultants or planners from the Thurston Conservation District or Natural Resources Conservation Service to prepare their CAF plan. Submit completed CAF plan to the County with all project-required permits.



Questions & More Info

Thurston County Community Planning
360-280-9298 | www.thurstoncountywa.gov
Thurston Conservation District
360-754-3588 | www.thurstoncd.com

