



OKANOGAN COUNTY
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Okanogan County VSP Meeting Minutes

1 A regular meeting of the Okanogan County VSP Workgroup was held on November 2, 2017 at
2 6:30 p.m. in the Natural Resource Conference Room, 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan,
3 Washington.

4 **OKANOGAN COUNTY STAFF:** Director of Planning Perry Huston, Natural Resource Planner
5 Angie Hubbard, Administrative Secretary Rocky King

6 **VOULUNTARY STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS:** William Tackman, Jerry Barnes, Maurice Joy,
7 Dick Ewing, Les Kinney, Megan Kernan, Robert Wilson.

8 **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amy Martin, Craig Nelson, Mindy Widell

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10 **Approve Agenda:** Bill motioned, Jerry seconded

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12 **Approve Minutes:** Les motioned, Robert seconded

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14 **BOCC Discussion:** Perry explained that the BOCC would like a countywide plan but, they
15 recognize that the tools in the box may be different for the different regions. The BOCC will
16 leave it to the group to decide the best way to handle it. Dick asked for a write up on each of
17 the three regions to better help make the decision. Les asked if only the people that apply will
18 be counted or if the ones that self-report or do the work on their own. Craig stated that self-
19 reporting would be very beneficial but, would need to make sure there was no false reporting.
20 He went on to talk about the other programs offered by other agencies and the benefits of
21 having multiple offered programs. Bill said that outreach would be a good way to educate the
22 farmers on all of the programs available and count all of the activities that they have been doing.
23 Dick pointed out that Okanogan County has many small farms with low income and NRCS is
24 geared toward larger farms. Amy said that they would be looking at the data they have and
25 summarize. They are planning on meeting with the Tribe's planning department to discuss
26 further how to deal with the private lands within the reservation.

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28 **Section 2.3:**

29 Water Quality Function

30 Megan said she would like to see the water temp subject continued into the next paragraph with
31 more detail. Craig suggested they add that stream temps can be affected by ag and non ag
32 land uses as well as natural causes. Les said that ambient temperature has more effect on
33 slow moving streams more than any land use activity. Craig pointed out that the Okanogan
34 River is different than most rivers because it flows more North to South then others and gets
35 more sun.

36
37 Hydrology Function

38 Megan would like to add a graph to show examples. She suggested there be one in the text
39 and also one in the appendix. Les reminded the group that there are many factors that should

40 be addresses such as if the ground is frozen hard when the snowmelt runs in the spring and
41 what that does to crops like grain. Dick pointed out that hydrology functions are also affected by
42 temperatures. Megan suggested that, on page 4 line 15, they add that ground water flow is
43 part of the hydrology of Okanogan County. Dick would like to add language to page 5 lines 5-8
44 to say that low stream flows occur naturally. Jerry suggested that, on page 5 line 26, they take
45 out “lowest effective level”.

46

47 Fish and Wildlife Habitat

48 The group discussed adding cougars and coyotes to the common fish and wildlife box and take
49 out lynx and wolf since they are not common in Okanogan County. Les suggested they take out
50 the word “upland” in the box and add the word “riparian”. The group would like to change line
51 one page 7 to say “In Okanogan County, an intensely managed ag landscape has changed a
52 percentage of historically diverse landscape.” On line 16 they would like to take out sage
53 grouse and replace it with upland birds.

54

55 **Section 3.1**

56 Dick suggested adding natural climate variations on line 11 page 1. Dick suggested adding
57 another table for Ag use on public lands. Jerry indicated Dirting from DNR would have a
58 calculation for that. Dick also suggested adding a list of streams. On page 4, the group would
59 like “sand dunes” taken out.

60

61 **Section 3.2**

62 Farm Elements page 2

63 Dick suggested adding stable and secure water resources. He also mentioned the conversion of
64 Ag land to public land where the water rights are transferred and they no longer use that land for
65 ag production. The group discussed rural development and the impact on farm land.

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69 **Next Meeting:**

70 • Section 3.4 Agricultural Viability Baseline Conditions (remainder from previous
71 meeting)

72 • Section 3.2 Baseline Intersection of Critical Areas and Agricultural Land Uses

73 • Section 3.3 Critical Areas Functions and Values

74

75 **Adjourn:** Jerry motioned and Megan seconded.

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77

78 Rocky King

79 Admin Secretary