

Okanogan County Voluntary Stewardship Program

WORK GROUP MEETING

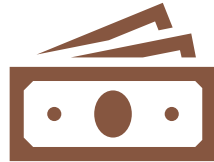
Thursday April 8th at 6:00 p.m.

- Review and Approve Agenda
- Review and Approve Minutes
- Budget Update
- Review 5-Year Report comments
 - May 13th is the public meeting
- Adaptive Management Action items
- Adjourn

Program Updates



County-Okanogan CD
contract amendment for
\$17,500 for current
biennium



Next biennium's funding
levels are similar in the
proposed budgets
(~\$240,000)



How VSP applies to 'new'
agriculture and drafting
policy guidance is being
reviewed by TP/SAC.
Recently went out to County
planning groups to review



Staff are participating in
some of the conversations
around program
improvements.

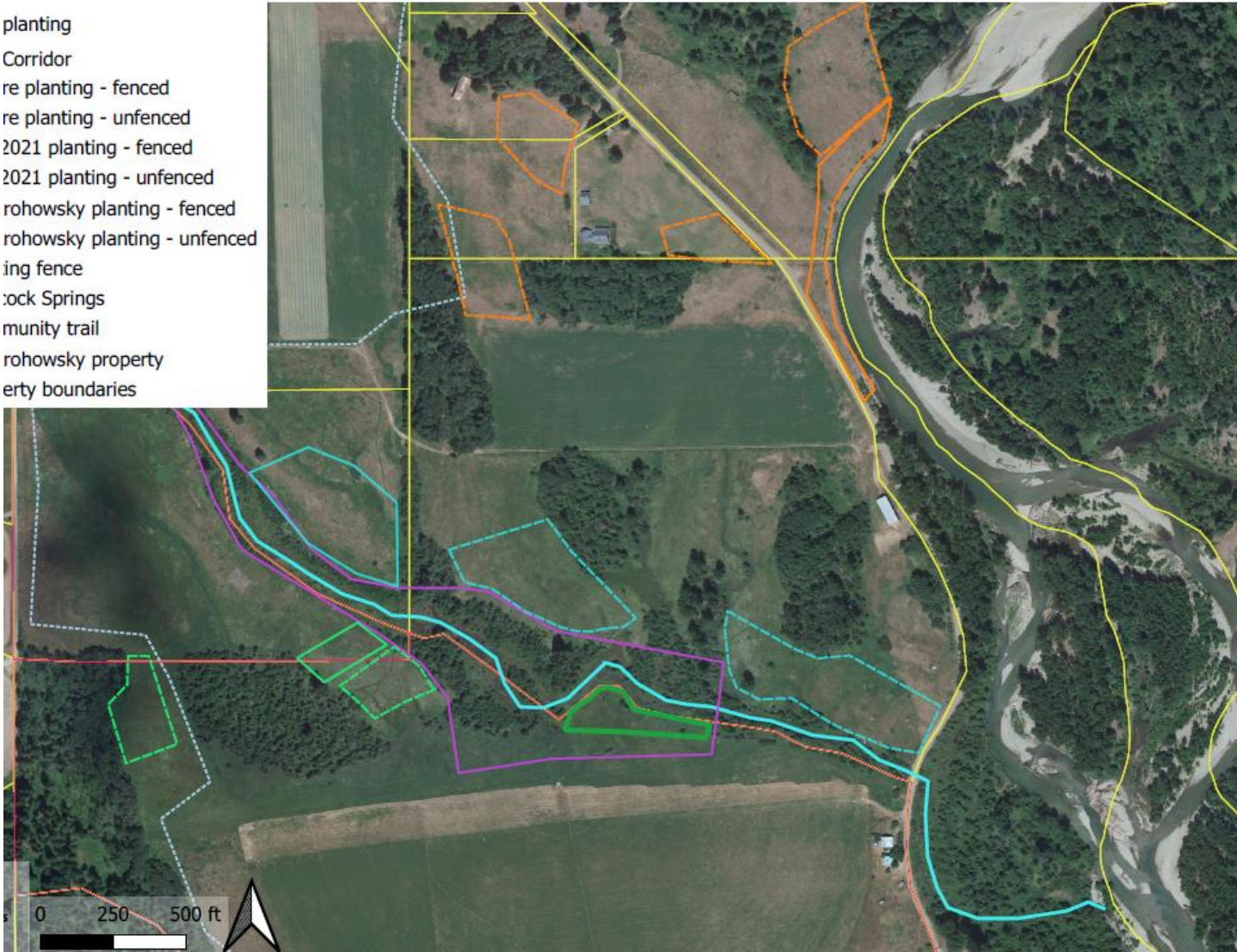
Program Updates

- Post-fire recovery funds proposed in the House budget
- Okanogan water bank, proposed for funding (House budget)
- Pollinator habitat projects (WSDA grant)
- Range planning update
- Schkrohowsky riparian/wetland planting, Methow



Aspen wetland protection + solar trough

planting
Corridor
re planting - fenced
re planting - unfenced
2021 planting - fenced
2021 planting - unfenced
rohowsky planting - fenced
rohowsky planting - unfenced
ing fence
ock Springs
munity trail
rohowsky property
erty boundaries



Schkrohowsky planting

1 acre, 350 plants

Planned by Cascade Fisheries as part of their Hancock Springs Chinook restoration project.

Okanogan CD working towards irrigation/VFD upgrades (separate funding)



5-Year Report Review & Comments

- Structure of the May 13th (8:00 am) Meeting
 - Public comment, Tech Panel comments, County response/discussion
 - Okanogan on at 9:15 a.m.
- *Review the TP comments*
- Prepare a response ahead of the meeting? (Discuss)

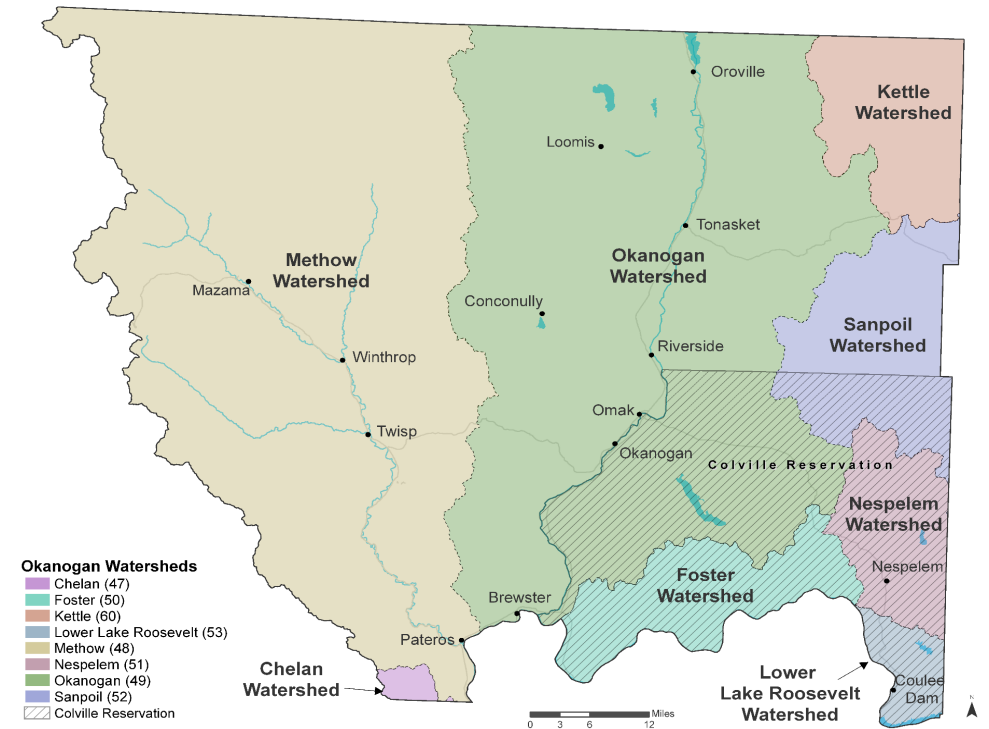


Adaptive Management

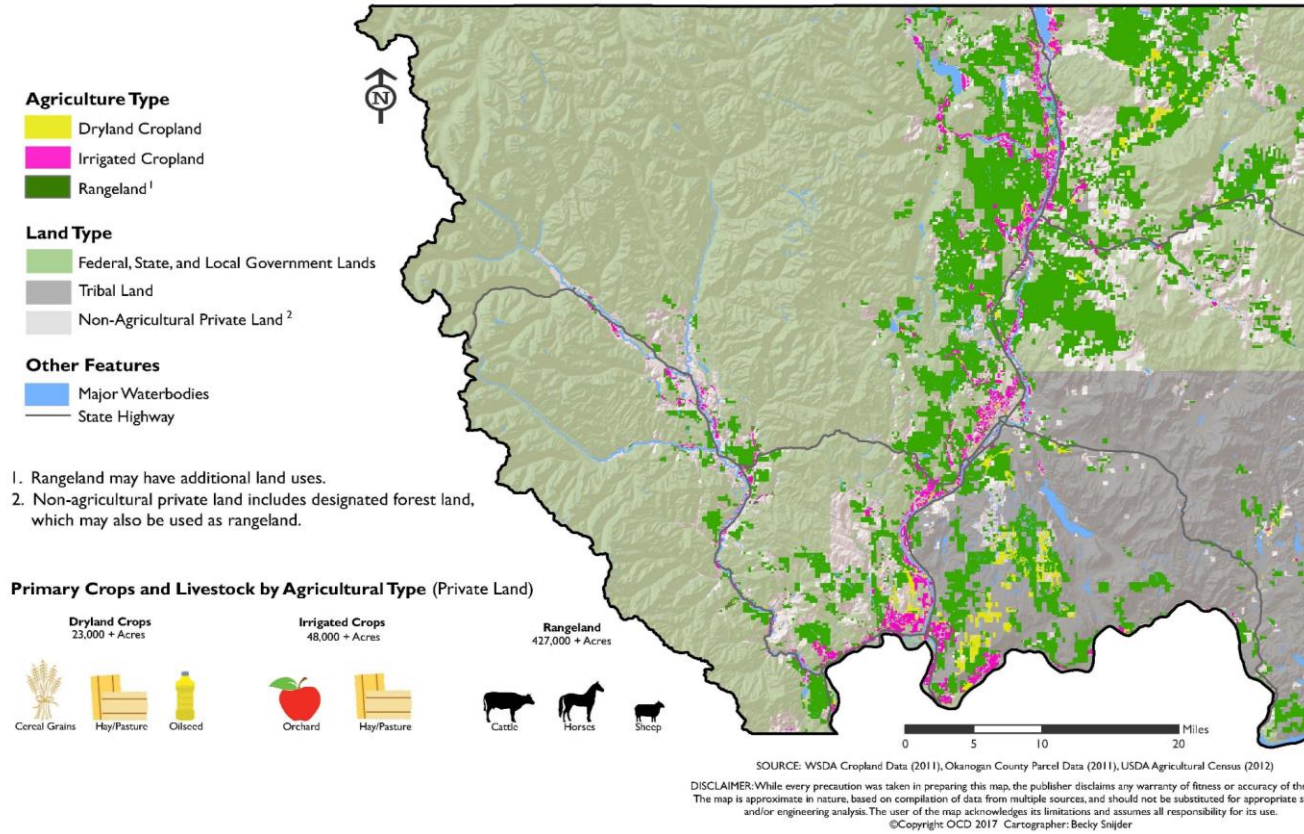
Adaptive Management Tasks

Benchmarks

- Re-engage with the Colville Confederated Tribes related to VSP implementation within the Reservation. **Update the Work Plan to clarify the Tribes' jurisdiction over critical areas.**
 - Excluding the Reservation from VSP most closely aligns with other County Planning policies. Okanogan CD will continue to provide TA within the Reservation. We will affirm this with the Tribes' Planning Dept.
- **Consider metrics for forest health activities** as stewardship practices that protect fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.
 - Forest stand improvement metric



Agriculture on Private Lands in Okanogan County



	Okanogan	Methow	Foster	Kettle	Nespelem	Sanpoil	Lower Lake Roosevelt	Chelan	Totals
Irrigated	35,176	6,755	5,761	151	145	124	115	59	48,286
Dryland	19,671	572	7,689	1,957	490	152	53	-	30,584
Rangeland	299,389	34,476	30,557	34,782	5,271	8,568	7,100	-	420,143
Totals	354,236	41,803	44,007	36,890	5,906	8,844	7,268	59	498,954

Adaptive Management Tasks

Benchmarks

- Re-evaluate the value of the Access Road metric as a component of the range management benchmarks.
- Improve the documentation of conservation practices throughout the year. Utilize Smartsheet for reporting.
- **Refine the VSP Work Plan to adapt to reporting requirements, for example, the intersection of the critical areas in each WRIA.**
 - Track state level decisions about reporting requirements (in what ways the program becomes more standardized).
 - Amy will clarify the process for updating our Work Plan.

Adaptive Management Tasks

Participation and Outreach

The following actions will be taken to ensure continued support for VSP and participation from the agricultural community:

- Conduct outreach within the WRIAs where few practices were documented to encourage reporting and present incentive opportunities.
- **Gain additional VSP Work Group members to maintain stakeholder representation.**

Okanogan Horticultural Association meeting, Cattleman's in April

- Improve awareness of VSP through targeted outreach and invitation to participate in voluntary reporting.
- **Edit the Stewardship Checklist to be more targeted towards specific agricultural land use and to encourage more voluntary reporting.**

Adaptive Management Tasks

Effectiveness Monitoring

Effectiveness monitoring strategies will be adapted for relevancy and to clarify variability:

- **Integrate feedback from the 5-Year Report review process and adapt the monitoring strategies to statewide priorities.** Okanogan CD will partner with agencies to clarify monitoring goals and for partnership opportunities.
 - Improve clarity in the work plan for reporting by WRIA.

Work alongside other VSP counties and state program so we're aligned with the intention of VSP

- Review and refine the aerial monitoring protocol and considerations for climate change effects.
- Consider pursuing funding for additional monitoring strategies, such as:
 - Range inventory & analysis
 - Stream and lake water quality monitoring
 - Wetland condition

Use WDFW protocols to monitor range condition for sharp-tailed grouse on private lands (voluntarily)?

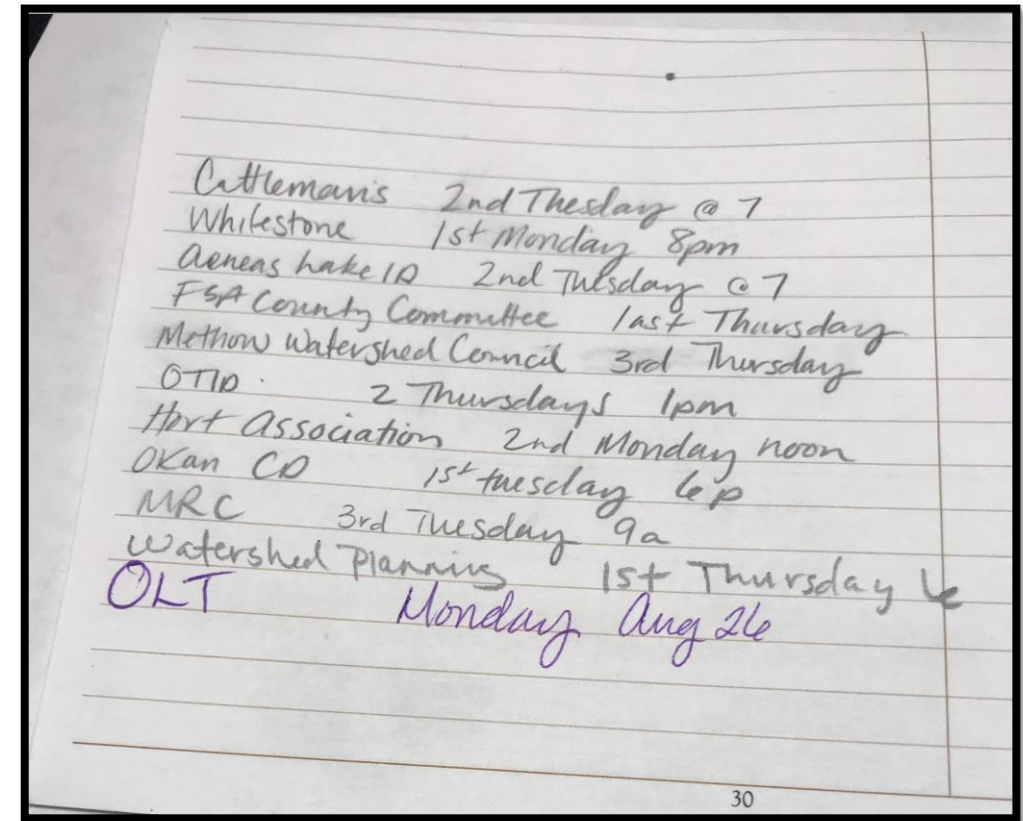


State Programmatic Recommendations

- Improve the reporting process so counties can provide the requested context in their reporting.
- Provide more opportunities for implementors to participate in state conversations and program development.
- Clarify monitoring expectations for the program.



Set Next Meeting Date





Okanogan WRIAs