

Okanogan Voluntary Stewardship Program

Outreach update, February 2019

Okanogan Conservation District

Okanogan CD has staff members specializing in outreach, water quality, wildlife, and crop production systems. After the Work Plan was approved in September, we're coordinating to plan an effective outreach program, and also streamline our process for providing grant funding to producers.

Outreach Goal:

Increase the installation of on-farm improvements that also protect critical areas.

Engagement methods:

- Demonstration days/half-days about practices- targeted to specific types of agriculture so the work shops are relevant
- Articles about local projects in various media outlets and presentations at meetings. Include Work Group members in presentations.
- Individual technical assistance (site visits, etc) to producers on practice implementation and provide information on grant programs.

We will continue to provide program and outreach information for all agricultural activities and needs, but during the first year as we increase our outreach we will target workshops towards range, irrigation and livestock practices.

The following year will be aimed towards soil health and horticultural operations. This will help the District re-connect with horticulture groups and develop programs towards their needs and interests.

Technical assistance and grant programs will continue to be available to all farm types.

Outreach Goal:

Increase producer's awareness of VSP and the benefits of sharing their voluntary stewardship projects to the program. Producers share their projects with the program.

Engagement methods (still in development):

- Focus on inviting producers to share their voluntary stewardship activities during via one-on-one interactions, rather than broad call for participation
- Learning from other Counties how successful the checklists are.
- Encourage producers to share project information as we interact through workshops and other outreach methods.
- Develop a recognition program to promote producers that participate?