

RCW 36.70A.720

Watershed group's duties—Work plan—Conditional priority funding

- (1) A watershed group designated by a county under RCW 36.70A.715 must develop a work plan to protect critical areas while maintaining the viability of agriculture in the watershed. The work plan must include goals and benchmarks for the protection and enhancement of critical areas. In developing and implementing the work plan, the watershed group must:
 - (a) Review and incorporate applicable water quality, watershed management, farmland protection, and species recovery data and plans;
 - (b) Seek input from tribes, agencies, and stakeholders;
 - (c) Develop goals for participation by agricultural operators conducting commercial and noncommercial agricultural activities in the watershed necessary to meet the protection and enhancement benchmarks of the work plan;
 - (d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;
 - (e) Create measurable benchmarks that, within ten years after the receipt of funding, are designed to result in
 - (i) the protection of critical area functions and values and
 - (ii) the enhancement of critical area functions and values through voluntary, incentive-based measures;
 - (f) Designate the entity or entities that will provide technical assistance;
 - (g) Work with the entity providing technical assistance to ensure that individual stewardship plans contribute to the goals and benchmarks of the work plan;
 - (h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;
 - (i) Establish baseline monitoring for:
 - (i) Participation activities and implementation of the voluntary stewardship plans and projects;
 - (ii) stewardship activities; and
 - (iii) the effects on critical areas and agriculture relevant to the protection and enhancement benchmarks developed for the watershed;
 - (j) Conduct periodic evaluations, institute adaptive management, and provide a written report of the status of plans and accomplishments to the county and to the commission within sixty days after the end of each biennium;
 - (k) Assist state agencies in their monitoring programs; and
 - (l) Satisfy any other reporting requirements of the program.

RCW 36.70A.750

Agricultural operators—Individual stewardship plan.

- (1) Agricultural operators implementing an individual stewardship plan consistent with a work plan are presumed to be working toward the protection and enhancement of critical areas.
- (2) If the watershed group determines that additional or different practices are needed to achieve the work plan's goals and benchmarks, the agricultural operator may not be required to implement those practices but may choose to implement the revised practices on a voluntary basis and is eligible for funding to revise the practices.

RCW 366.70A.755

Implementing the work plan.

In developing stewardship practices to implement the work plan, to the maximum extent practical the watershed group should:

- (1) Avoid management practices that may have unintended adverse consequences for other habitats, species, and critical areas functions and values; and
- (2) Administer the program in a manner that allows participants to be eligible for public or private environmental protection and enhancement incentives while protecting and enhancing critical area functions and values.

RCW 36.70A.760

Agricultural operators—Withdrawal from program.

An agricultural operator participating in the program may withdraw from the program and is not required to continue voluntary measures after the expiration of an applicable contract. The watershed group must account for any loss of protection resulting from withdrawals when establishing goals and benchmarks for protection and a work plan under RCW 36.70A.720.