

# Voluntary Stewardship Program

Kittitas County Watershed Group Meeting

WCA Conference Room, 1301 N Dolarway Rd, Ellensburg

March 28, 2016 9AM - 4:30 PM

# Welcome

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Review Agenda

# Watershed Group

## ▶ Ag Interests

- ▶ Kittitas County Farm Bureau (Mark Charlton/Brad Haberman)
- ▶ Kittitas County Cattlemen (Sam Kayser/Terry Clarke)
- ▶ Kittitas County Hay Growers (Brian Cortese)
- ▶ Kittitas Reclamation District (Kevin Eslinger/Urban Eberhart)
- ▶ Swauk-Teaway Grange (Dale Rusho)
- ▶ Northern Kittitas Co Operator (Jim Miller)
- ▶ Lower Kittitas Co Operator (Karen Poulsen)
- ▶ Small Acreage Operator (Matthew Cox)
- ▶ Small Acreage Operator - Organic (Bambi Miller)
- ▶ Dryland Operator (Lila Hanson)

## ▶ Environmental Interests

- ▶ The Nature Conservancy
- ▶ Kittitas Co Conservation Coalition
- ▶ Futurewise
- ▶ Forterra (Jill Scheffer)
- ▶ Audubon Society (Tom Gauron)
- ▶ Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project (Justin Bezold/ Arden Thomas -Washington Water Trust)
- ▶ Kittitas Conservation Trust (Mitch Long)

## ▶ Tribes

- ▶ Yakama Nation (Phil Rigdon/ John Marvin)

# Watershed Group

- ▶ Technical Advisory Committee
  - ▶ KCCD (Mark & Sherry)
  - ▶ County CDS (Angela San Filippo)
  - ▶ County Flood Control Zone District (New Hire)
  - ▶ Kittitas County Water Purveyors (Kat Satnik)
  - ▶ Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (Jen Nelson)
  - ▶ Washington Department of Ag (Kelly McClain)
  - ▶ Washington Department of Natural Resources (Larry Leach)
  - ▶ WSU Extension (Tip Hudson)
  - ▶ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (Erin Kaczmarczyk/Elayne Hovde-Knudson)
  - ▶ City Public Works
  - ▶ WSDOT?

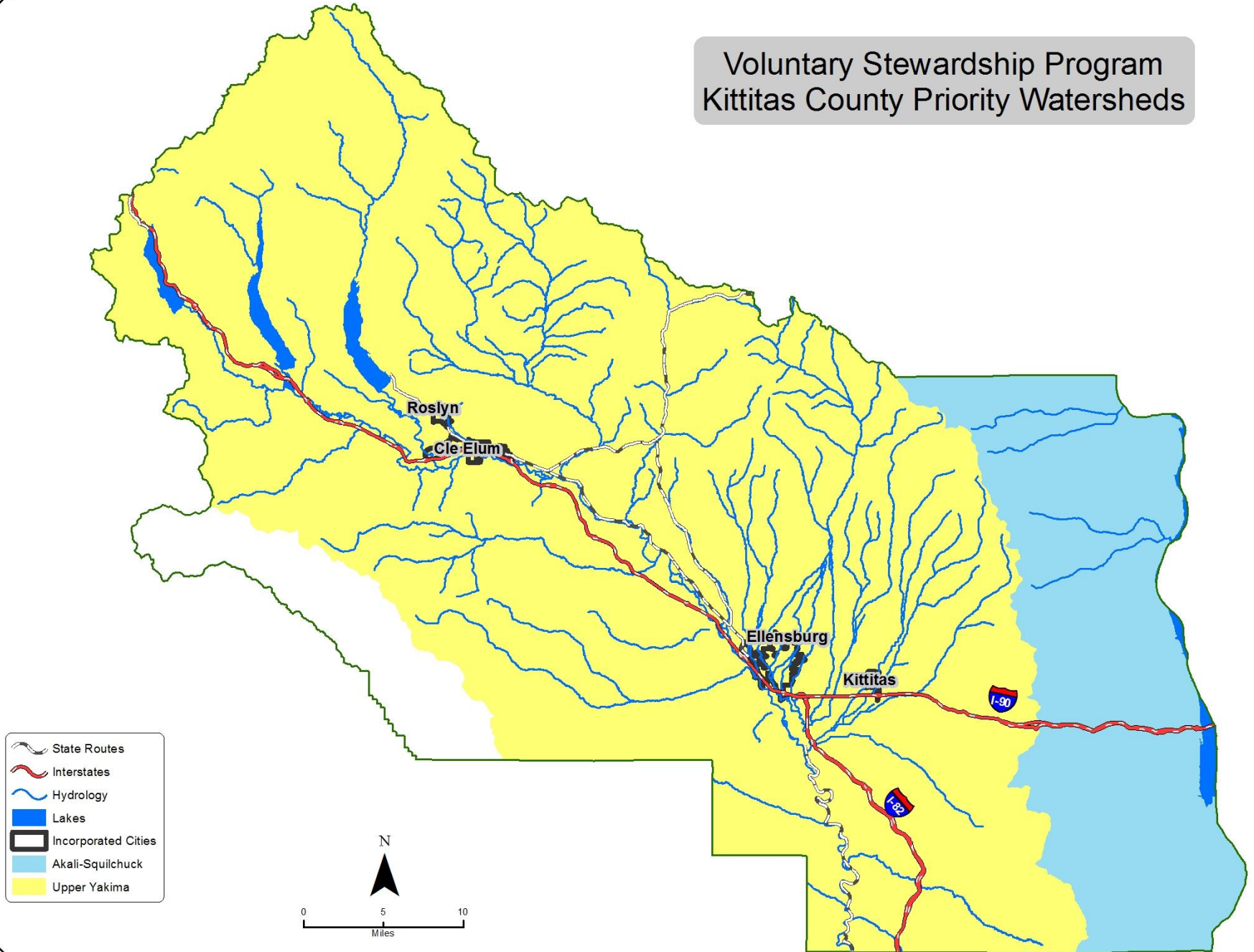
# Operating Guidelines

- ▶ Thurston Example

**Break/Caucus**

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The text 'Break/Caucus' is centered in a bold, sans-serif font, matching the color palette.

# Voluntary Stewardship Program Kittitas County Priority Watersheds



# VSP Process - Overview of RCW

- ▶ (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**.

- ▶ (1) *"Agricultural activities" means all agricultural uses and practices as defined in RCW 90.58.065.*
- ▶ (4) *"Enhance" or "enhancement" means to improve the processes, structure, and functions existing, as of July 22, 2011, of ecosystems and habitats associated with critical areas.*
- ▶ (8) *"Protect" or "protecting" means to prevent the degradation of functions and values existing as of July 22, 2011.*



# Watershed Group Duties

## -Draft Prioritization-

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;
- ▶ (h) Incorporate into the work plan any existing development regulations relied upon to achieve the goals and benchmarks for protection;

# Watershed Group Duties

- ▶ (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;
- ▶ (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;
- ▶ (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;

# Watershed Group Duties

- ▶ (d) Ensure outreach and technical assistance is provided to agricultural operators in the watershed;
- ▶ (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;

# Watershed Group Duties

- ▶ (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.

**Break/Caucus**

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The text 'Break/Caucus' is centered in a bold, sans-serif font, matching the color palette.



# Existing Data and information

- ▶ Wetlands
- ▶ Frequently flooded areas
- ▶ Critical aquifer recharge areas
- ▶ Geologically hazardous areas
- ▶ Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas