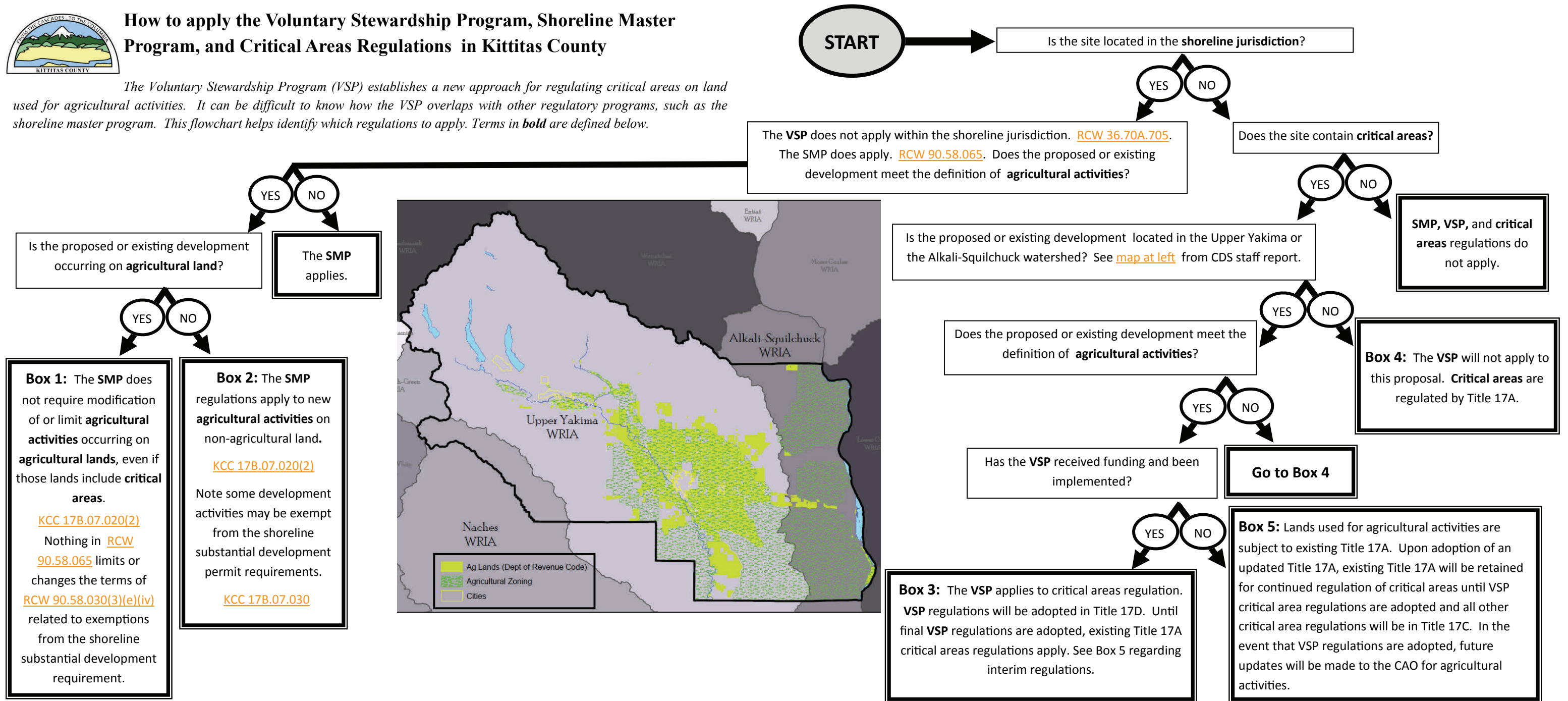




How to apply the Voluntary Stewardship Program, Shoreline Master Program, and Critical Areas Regulations in Kittitas County

The Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) establishes a new approach for regulating critical areas on land used for agricultural activities. It can be difficult to know how the VSP overlaps with other regulatory programs, such as the shoreline master program. This flowchart helps identify which regulations to apply. Terms in **bold** are defined below.



Definitions

Agricultural Activities: means agricultural uses and practices including, but not limited to: Producing, breeding, or increasing agricultural products; rotating and changing agricultural crops; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie fallow in which it is plowed and tilled but left unseeded; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant as a result of adverse agricultural market conditions; allowing land used for agricultural activities to lie dormant because the land is enrolled in a local, state, or federal conservation program, or the land is subject to a conservation easement; conducting agricultural operations; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural equipment; maintaining, repairing, and replacing agricultural facilities, provided that the replacement facility is no closer to the shoreline than the original facility; and maintaining agricultural lands under production or cultivation. [RCW 90.58.065\(2\)\(a\)](#).

Agricultural Land: means those specific land areas on which agriculture activities are conducted. [RCW 90.58.065\(2\)\(d\)](#).

Critical Areas: means lands with natural hazards that support certain unique, fragile or valuable resource areas, including wetlands; areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water; fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas; frequently flooded areas; and geologically hazardous areas. Buffers adjacent to a critical that may also be restricted from specific building and development activities. See [KCC Title 17A](#), [RCW 36.70A.030\(5\)](#), and [WAC 173-26-020\(8\)](#).

Shoreline Jurisdiction: The area to which the shoreline master program applies, including, for Kittitas County, rivers and streams with more than 20 cubic feet per second mean annual flow; lakes and reservoirs greater than 20 acres in area; shorelands adjacent to these water bodies extending 200 feet; floodways and contiguous floodplain areas landward 200 feet from such floodways; and wetlands associated with those water bodies. See maps of the Kittitas shoreline jurisdiction on the County's [SMP update website](#). See [RCW 90.58.030](#).

Shoreline Master Program (SMP): The comprehensive use plan for shorelines, developed according to the Shoreline Management Act and the applicable guidelines. The 1975 Kittitas County SMP has been updated. Effective March 7, 2016, the new SMP regulations are included in Title 17B.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): Agricultural, environmental, and tribal representatives worked on a new, alternative approach to critical areas protection for agricultural activities that the Legislature adopted in 2011 ([ESHB 1886](#)). The legislation for this new, alternative approach is codified in [RCW 36.70A](#), the Growth Management Act, as the "Voluntary Stewardship Program" (VSP).