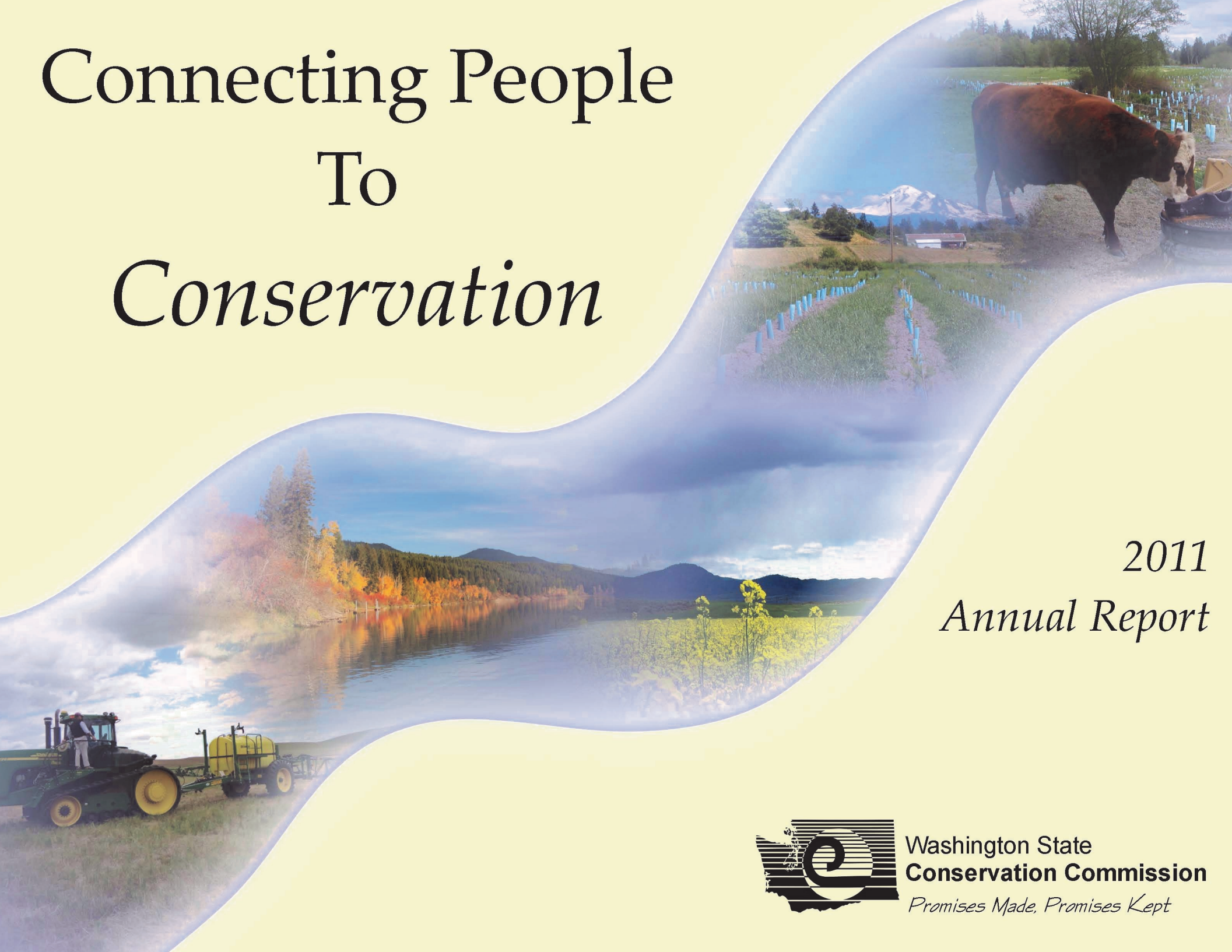
Connecting People To *Conservation*



2011

Annual Report

Washington State
Conservation Commission
Promises Made, Promises Kept

Front Cover design by Sandy Welch of the
Whidbey Island Conservation District.

Washington State Conservation Commission
Mission Statement

The mission of the Washington State Conservation Commission is to lead the citizens of the state in the wise stewardship, conservation, and protection of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Since 1939, the Conservation Commission has been recognized as the independent and trusted agency of choice that implements stewardship in the state of Washington in partnership with conservation districts, and other agencies and organizations. Conservation districts are seen as the implementers of actions in local areas to accomplish natural resource conservation goals.

Our 2011 Annual Report, *Connecting People to Conservation*, provides a snapshot of the services provided by SCC and conservation districts. Even with a tough economy and budget impacts, the conservation districts were able to exceed the promises they made. The technical assistance provided to landowners was higher than expected, as was the number of workshops which resulted in new landowner contacts.

SCC Core Functions

- Provide assistance to conservation district supervisors in carrying out their programs to promote conservation of natural resources.
- Inform conservation districts of the activities and experiences of other conservation districts, and disseminate this information statewide.
- Review agreements between conservation districts and other entities.
- Encourage cooperation and collaboration of state, federal, regional, tribal, interstate, and local public and private agencies and secure their assistance with conservation districts.
- Recommend funding packages necessary to finance the activities of SCC and districts and administer resulting funds.
- Assist conservation districts in obtaining legal services from state and local legal officers.
- Review budgets, administrative procedures, and operation of conservation districts, and advise the districts concerning their conformance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Require annual reports, annual plans, and long range plans from conservation districts.

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PHOTO:
Flower with ladybug / Debbie Becker (SCC)

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Meet The Chair

Fred Colvin,
Chair

This past year has brought on several changes in the world of conservation districts and the Conservation Commission. We are constantly having to change and adapt to new and emerging situations in our operating environments. Early on in 2011, there was an effort to merge the Conservation Commission, to which, the agency's independence was upheld. Thank you to everyone who wrote letters, made phone calls and held visits with their constituents. Your efforts were appreciated.

During the Legislative session, the Legislature established the "Voluntary Stewardship Program" within the Conservation Commission. This reflects the confidence and support the Commission and districts have with the policy makers in Olympia. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts saw a change when their Executive Director, John Larson accepted the position of CEO with the National Association of Conservation Districts. It was a special sight to see the members of the organization band together to keep the operation running and continue the great services they provide. A big welcome to their new Executive Director, David Vogel.

As I reflect on 2011 and look forward to 2012, I continue to think about the excellent work of the conservation districts of Washington State. Despite the economic status, conservation districts and the volunteers continued to provide the highest level of service anywhere in the country. As conservation districts, we have an obligation to be effective in communicating the natural resource issues we, as a state, face. Landowners and managers depend on us for information, and assisting with conservation programs. In 2011, we exceeded the expectations of many and improved our service delivery of conservation services.

2011 was not only a challenging year but a triumphant one at best. Thank you to all of my friends in conservation. 2012 will be a great year and I am proud to be a part of conservation.

Meet The Executive Director

Mark Clark,
Executive Director

Each year, one of the highlights of my job is the preparation and publishing of this report. An important duty of the Commission is to "disseminate information throughout the state concerning the activities and programs of the conservation districts" and "make available information concerning the needs and the work of the conservation district and the commission to the governor, the legislature, executive agencies of the government of this state, political subdivisions of this state, cooperating federal agencies, and the general public."

This report highlights a portion of the work of the state's 47 conservation districts and private landowners who work the land and strive to conserve and improve the natural resources. The projects and stories show the diversity and provide an indication of how conservation districts accomplish voluntary-based incentive programs. You will read about the many partners and their great working relationships in achieving implementation of practices.

In this time of tight budgets, it is important to remember conservation projects are cost -shared with the landowners. This represents real jobs and real money in local communities. Local contractors and suppliers are involved in this work and these dollars are reinvested into the communities. The state's system of conservation districts continues to invest in conservation practices addressing statewide resource concerns.

I want to recognize the important work of the 235 volunteer Conservation District Supervisors who lead and serve the 47 districts. Please find some time to thank these dedicated officials for their commitment to improving our local resource concerns.

These are difficult times to be a public servant. I want to thank the Commission Members, our dedicated staff and conservation partners for finding new ways to get conservation on the ground with continued loss of resources.

Meet The Commissioners

Governor Appointed

Lynn Bahrych, was appointed by Governor Gary Locke in 2004. She is a past chair of SCC. She holds a Masters Degree in English Education and a Ph.D. in Medieval Renaissance Literature as well as a J.D. from the U.W. Law School.

Jim Peters, Vice-Chair was appointed by Governor Gary Locke in 1998. Jim is a member of the Squaxin Island Tribe and has served on the Tribal Council for six plus years. He is currently the Habitat Policy Analyst at the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Conservation Commission Member Terms

Governor appointed members serve four-year terms.

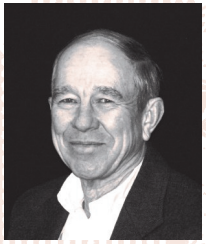
Washington Association of Conservation Districts representatives serve three-year terms.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts President serves a two-year term, or as elected by the WACD membership.

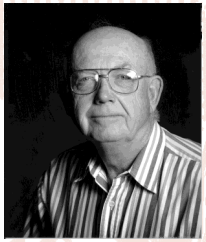
Agency representatives serve at the discretion of the director of their agency.

Washington Association of Conservation Districts Area Representatives

Fred Colvin, Chair, represents the Western Region. He is past President of WACD and he is currently on the board of the Thurston Conservation District where he serves as Secretary/ Treasurer.



Lynn Brown, represents the Central Region. He currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Kittitas Conservation District Board and holds an M.P.A. from Harvard University.



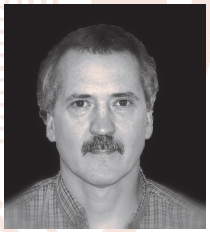
Tracy Eriksen, represents the Eastern Region. He has served as an elected supervisor on the Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District board for the past 15 years. He holds a B.S. in Agriculture Engineering from WSU.

Chris Herron, represents the WACD as President. He is a fourth generation farmer from Franklin County. He holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Whitworth College. He is a long-standing member of the Franklin County Association of Wheat Growers.

Agency Representatives

Josh Baldi represents Director Ted Sturdevant of the Department of Ecology. He joined Ecology as the special assistant to the Director in 2005. He received his degree from Washington State University.

Tom Davis represented Dan Newhouse, Director of the Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Davis served on the Commission from 2010 to December 2011.



Clay Sprague, represented Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands, Department of Natural Resources. Commissioner Sprague served on the Commission from 2009 to August 2011.

Jim Kropf serves as Assistant Director for Washington State University Extension. He has been a faculty member of WSU since 1979. A Washington native, Jim grew up in Pierce County and has a B.S. and M.S. in Agronomy from Washington State University.

Key Commission Actions

The Conservation Commission held six Regular Business meetings and one Special Meeting in 2011. During this period, the Commissioners faced several significant issues. Below are only a few of the actions which were approved throughout 2011.

March 18, 2011 -	The commission accepted the petition to include the city of Gig Harbor within the Pierce Conservation District boundaries.
May 19, 2011 -	Commissioners approved an effort to move forward implementation monitoring of all state-funded practices, developed by conservation districts and for commission staff to develop an action plan for lack of compliance.
July 21, 2011 -	Commissioners directed staff to develop a system to identify the leveraged dollars for the irrigation efficiencies and livestock programs.
June 17, 2011 -	Commissioners approved the creation of a task force to review and provide recommendations on addressing district efficiencies and how efficiencies can be used to make allocations in the next fiscal year.

To comply with Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1371, which encouraged boards and commissions to reduce travel, lodging and other costs. It also directed all groups, if feasible, to use methods of conducting meetings that do not require members to travel and to use state facilities whenever possible for meetings that require members to physically be present.

In 2011, SCC held all of their meetings in public facilities, utilized other meeting options whenever possible and limited the amount of travel for the staff and members.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

To view the approved meeting minutes for all Conservation Commission meetings, please visit our website: www.scc.wa.gov

Performance Measures

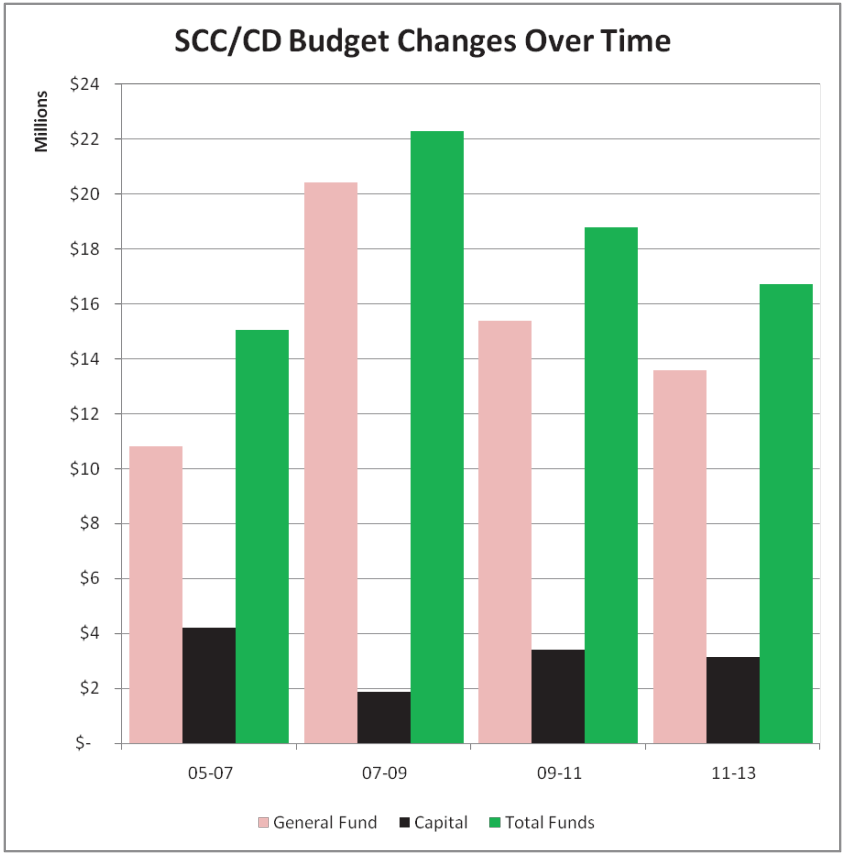
Fiscal Year 2011 Performance Measure	Numbers
Conservation District grant payments	1,634
Payment processing days	2.05
Total conservation district payments	$7.63 million
Total practice installation on private lands	249
Private landowners with installed practices	313
Cost-Share practice payments to landowners	$933,367
Independent contracts with SCC	13
Independent contract value	$3,486,870

Conservation District Payment Requests and Document Processing

- Financial staff continued to evaluate services and measure effectiveness of required documentation and processing time. Over the course of the biennium, several cost-saving and time saving measures have been implemented.
    - Mandatory EFT (electronic fund transfer) of payments from the Commission to conservation districts. We stand at 100%. Each time a paper warrant was printed and mailed, it was costing the Commission nearly $2. This results in conservation districts receiving their funding several days sooner.
    - Staff evaluated the use of original signatures and electronic delivery of documents. Several changes were made allowing payments to be processed quicker, easing the conservation district cash flow burden.

Fiscal Year	Number of Payment Requests from conservation districts	Conservation Commission Processing Time (3 FTEs)
FY09	1355	2.25 days
FY10	1763	2.24 days
FY11	1634	2.05 days

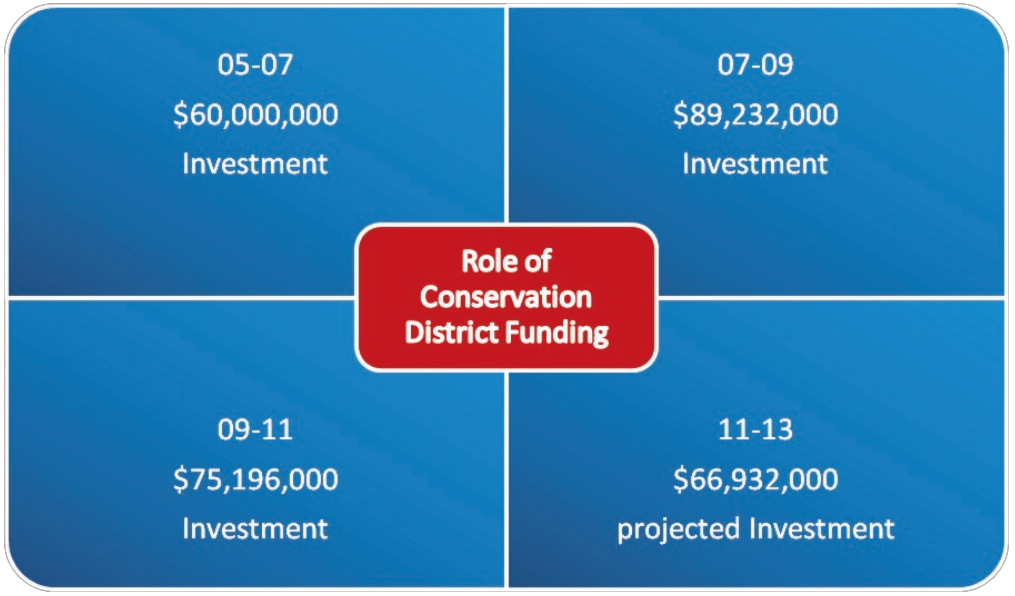
Efficiencies



- In general, the funding level of 05-07 reflects the average rate of funding since 01-03 biennium.
- 07-09 witnessed an 89% increase in funding over the 05-07 period. In large part due to the addition of several programs (OFP, Pioneers, PSP, Livestock).
- 09-11 experienced a (25%) reduction in funding over 07-09 by the legislature who cut or eliminated several programs.
- The current biennium has experienced an additional (11.8%) reduction to date. Representing an overall reduction in funding of (33%) since 07-09.

Leveraged Funds

Using their annual and long-range plan to determine natural resource priorities, conservation districts will utilize Conservation Commission funding to leverage additional funding. In general, each Commission dollar is leveraged four times (1:4).



$291,000,000

INVESTMENT!

The Conservation System

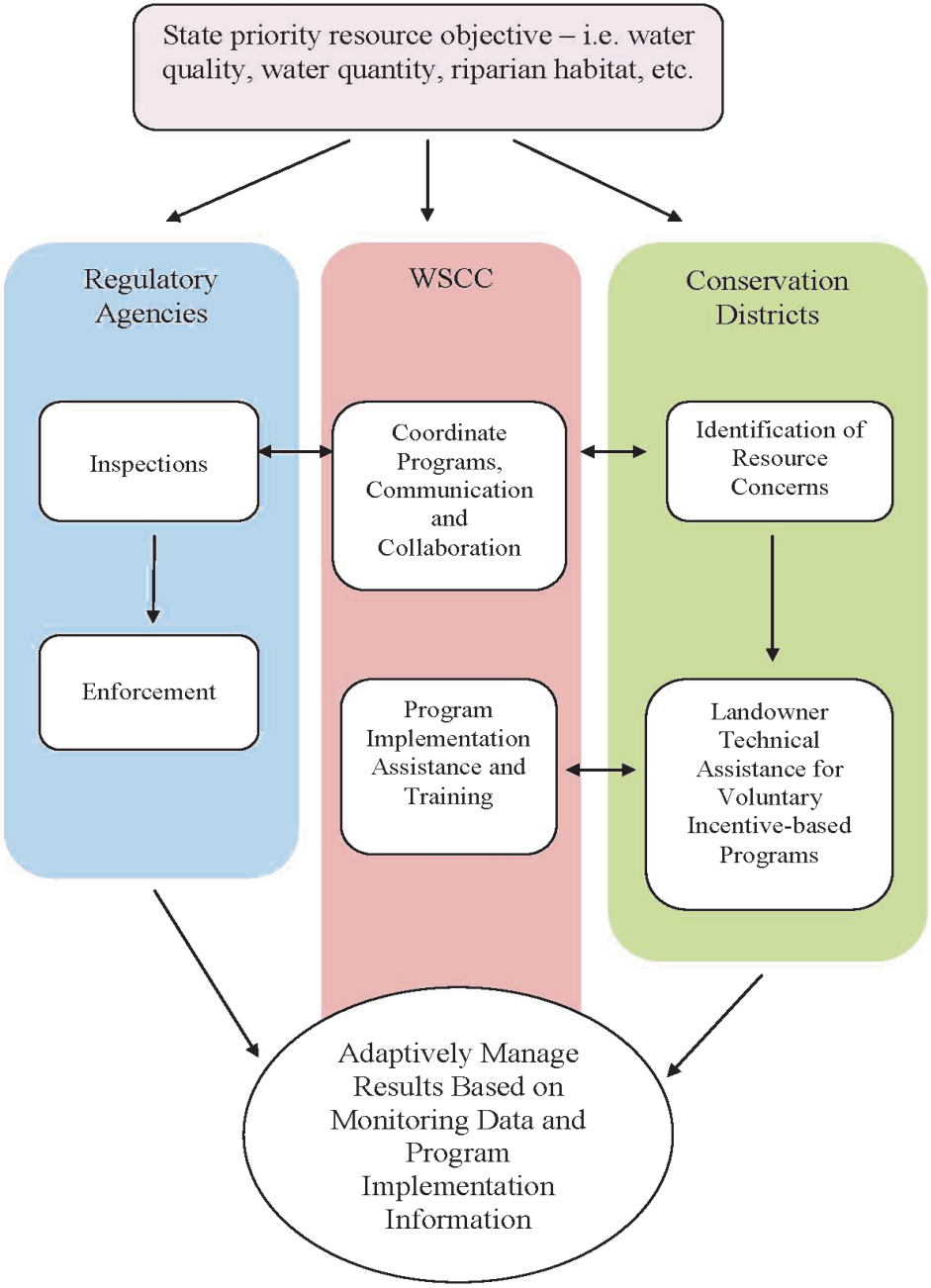
The system for conserving our state's natural resources consists of two major parts: the regulatory system and the voluntary incentive-based system.

These two elements must work together to accomplish resource protection and enhancement in a way that engages landowners while accomplishing results. In this time of limited budgets and staff, agencies and conservation districts must emphasize improved coordination of efforts.

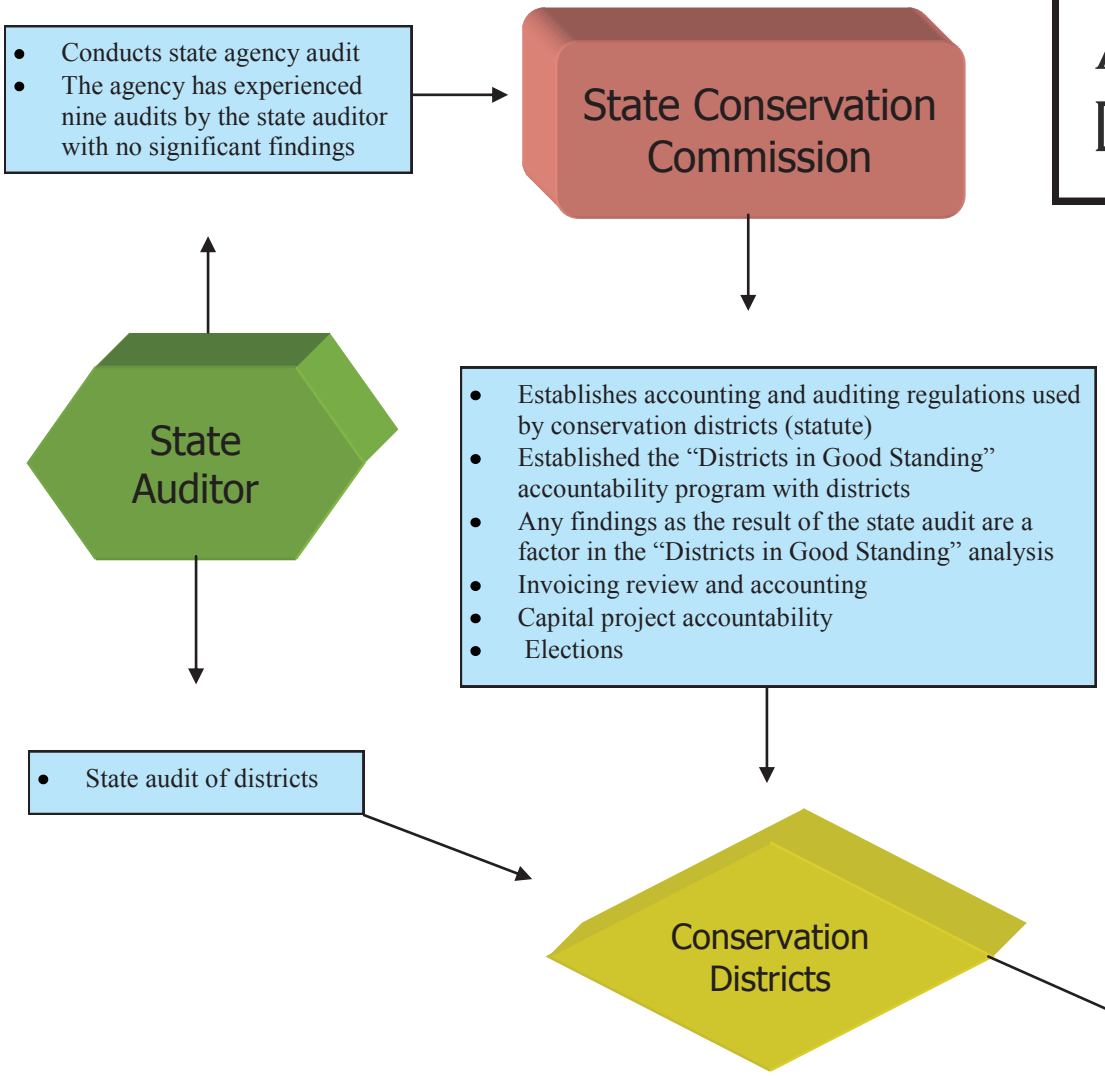
As the diagram shows, the role of the Conservation Commission is to assist in this process by coordinating programs and encouraging collaboration. The Commission also provides the mechanism for accountability for fiscal outcomes and resource objectives.

Based on these results, the system is adaptively managed to ensure continual process improvement.

Our ultimate objective is the protection, restoration and enhancement of our natural resources in a manner that maintains viable working lands for future generations.



Accountability



Agency & Conservation District Accountability

The agency accountability system ensures funds appropriated by the Legislature are invested efficiently and effectively. The Commission also ensures public funds are expended consistent with state and agency policies.

The Commission's commitment to accountability is demonstrated by our partnership with the State Auditor to create an innovative self-evaluation tool called the Schedule 22 Internal Assessment. That tool helps conservation districts keep within statutory requirements.

In addition, the Commission's *Districts in Good Standing* accountability system evaluates districts on a set of 10 criteria covering fiscal and operational responsibilities of districts.

Key Policy Initiatives

The Conservation Commission statute (RCW 89.08) provides general guidance on our policy activities:

- Encouraging the cooperation and collaboration of agencies at all levels in the administration of activities concerned with the conservation of renewable natural resources.
- Making available information concerning the needs and the work of conservation districts and the commission to the governor, the legislature, executive agencies of the government of this state, political subdivisions of this state, cooperating federal agencies and the general public.
- Working with other agencies involved in the conservation of natural resources and review their plans and activities to call attention to omissions and avoid duplication of effort.

Other Commission policy activities:

- Puget Sound—coordination of the Puget Sound conservation districts. Participation in the PS State Caucus.
- Irrigation Efficiencies—Work closely with Ecology, conservation districts and other entities on the design and implementation of projects that conserve water and maintain agricultural production.
- Regional Conservation Groups—Assisting regional conservation efforts, including the Snohomish Sustainable Lands Strategy, Yakima Basin Clean Water Partnership, and the Regional Open Space Strategy.

Agriculture and Water Quality

- In 2010 SCC staff facilitated discussions among several agencies and stakeholders regarding the question of how to achieve state water quality objectives on farmlands across the state.
- In 2011 these discussions moved to the "3 Director Talks" - coordination meetings between the directors of Ecology, Agriculture and the Conservation Commission.
- The directors are addressing several key areas including BMPs for water quality, nutrient pollution, inspections, and monitoring protocols.
- Work will continue among the directors through 2012.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

- Formerly known as the Ruckelshaus Process, the 2011 Legislature created the VSP based on the negotiated agreement.
- Representatives from agricultural groups, the environmental community, and county governments met for several years to resolve the issue of protection of critical areas on agricultural lands. This resulted in the proposal for VSP.
- VSP is an alternative approach to protecting critical areas and agricultural activities through local watershed-level collaboration to develop a work plan with clear goals and benchmarks.
- The Conservation Commission is the implementing agency for VSP and spent a large portion of 2011 establishing the program and will continue implementation through 2012 and beyond.

Office of Farmland Preservation

Farmland Preservation Task Force - Policy Statement on Farmland Preservation

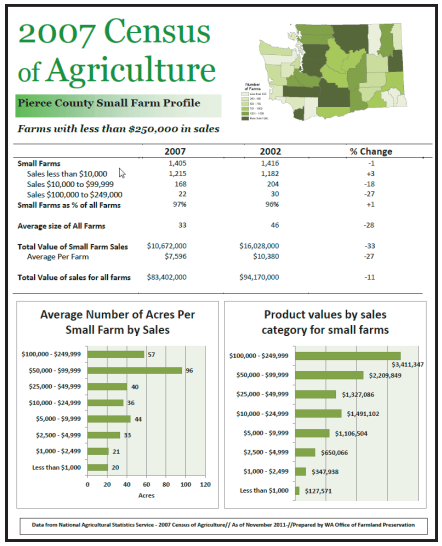
Agriculture resources should be a high priority in Washington, equal to other issues in the state. Agriculture resources include the land, water, and energy necessary for profitable agricultural activity.

Accomplishments for 2011:

- Participated in Governor Gregoire's food policy group.
- Provided seven counties with $175,000 in farmland preservation planning grants and produced final report.
- Continued outreach through OFP e-letter and trade fairs.
- Developed series of county level small farm profiles.
- Worked with stakeholders on state-wide legislation aimed at protecting small farms.
- Hosted a succession planning workshop for professionals and producers.
- Utilized an intern from Evergreen State College who conducted research and evaluations of regulations on private landowners.
- Began work on environmental markets demand analysis for the Yakima Basin.

What we're working on in 2012:

- Developing grant concept for identifying impacts to farming activities from regulations based on intern project.
- Develop training workshops for professionals.
- Update Farmland Preservation indicators report with 2011 census data.
- Continue developing relationships with stakeholders to identify areas of opportunity that would support preserving farms in Washington.



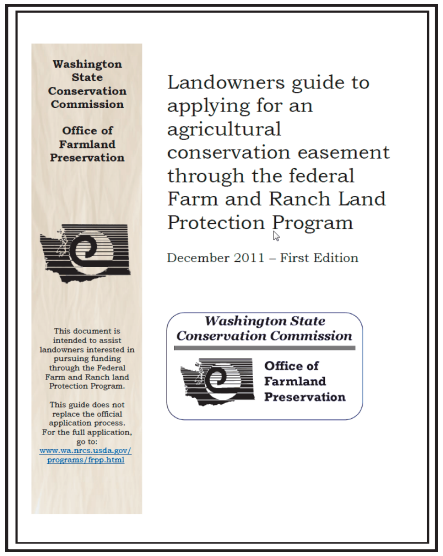
2007 Census of Agriculture

Pierce County Small Farm Profile

Farms with less than $250,000 in sales

	2007	2002	% Change
Small Farms	1,405	1,416	-1
Sales less than $10,000	1,215	1,182	+3
Sales $10,000 to $99,999	168	204	-18
Sales $100,000 to $249,000	22	30	-27
Small Farms as % of all Farms	97%	96%	+1
Average size of All Farms	33	46	-28
Total Value of Small Farm Sales	$10,672,000	$16,028,000	-33
Average Per Farm	$7,596	$10,380	-27
Total Value of sales for all farms	$83,402,000	$94,170,000	-11

Data from National Agricultural Statistics Service - 2007 Census of Agriculture// As of November 2011//Prepared by WA Office of Farmland Preservation



Washington State Conservation Commission

Office of Farmland Preservation

Landowners guide to applying for an agricultural conservation easement through the federal Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program

December 2011 – First Edition

This document is intended to assist landowners interested in pursuing funding through the Federal Farm and Ranch land Protection Program.

This guide does not replace the official application process. For the full application, go to: www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html

Washington State Conservation Commission

Office of Farmland Preservation

OFP 2011 Reports

- 2011 County Technical Assistance Grants report.
- 2011 Landowners guide to applying for an agricultural easement.
- 2010 OFP Purchase of Development Rights Report.

All OFP reports and other information can be downloaded online at: http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/.

Conservation District Annual Reports

PROMISES MADE • PROMISES KEPT

Conservation Districts are a unique form of non-regulatory government, they match local resource needs with technical and financial resources to help landowners with "on-the-ground" conservation projects. Chapter 89.08 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the enabling statute for conservation district work in Washington and was adopted by the legislature in 1939.

Each conservation district is directed by a five-member board of supervisors. Three members are elected locally, and at least two of the three elected supervisors must be landowners or operators of a farm. Two members are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission, and at least one must be a landowner or operate a farm.

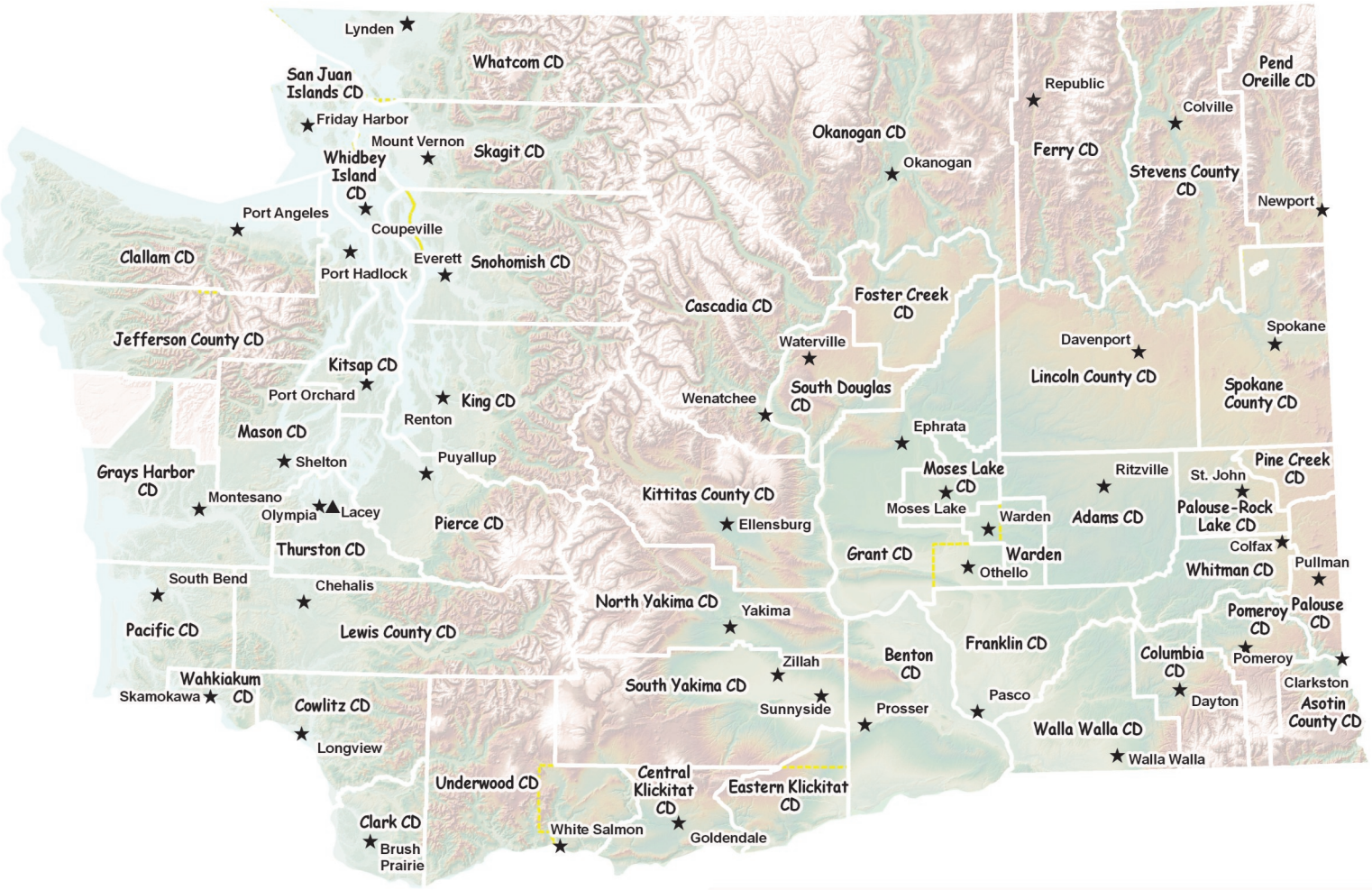
Today, there are 47 Conservation Districts in the state of Washington.

For more information about local conservation districts and their boards, visit www.scc.wa.gov.

The following pages contain the annual reports submitted by Washington's 47 conservation districts. These reports provide the district the opportunity to show great conservation projects being implemented in their local areas. They also include the current Board of Supervisors for each district.

Jefferson County Conservation District Board Chair attends their meeting via the internet using the software Skype. Photo Courtesy: Jefferson County Conservation District

Members of the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) discuss a proposal. TAG members include; representation from conservation districts, Commission, Department of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, municipalities, environmental groups, the Yakama Nation and irrigation districts. Photo Courtesy: Bill Eller, (SCC)


Lynden
Whatcom CD
San Juan Islands CD
Friday Harbor
Mount Vernon
Skagit CD
Whidbey Island CD
Port Angeles
Coupeville
Clallam CD
Port Hadlock
Everett
Snohomish CD
Jefferson County CD
Kitsap CD
Port Orchard
King CD
Renton
Mason CD
Shelton
Puyallup
Grays Harbor CD
Montesano
Olympia
Lacey
Pierce CD
Thurston CD
South Bend
Chehalis
Pacific CD
Lewis County CD
Wahkiakum CD
Skamokawa
Cowlitz CD
Longview
Clark CD
Brush Prairie
Underwood CD
Okanogan CD
Okanogan
Cascadia CD
Waterville
Wenatchee
Kittitas County CD
Ellensburg
North Yakima CD
Yakima
Zillah
South Yakima CD
Sunnyside
Central Klickitat CD
White Salmon
Goldendale
Eastern Klickitat CD
Republic
Ferry CD
Colville
Stevens County CD
Pend Oreille CD
Newport
Foster Creek CD
Davenport
Lincoln County CD
Spokane
Spokane County CD
Ephrata
Moses Lake CD
Moses Lake
Ritzville
Adams CD
St. John
Pine Creek CD
Palouse-Rock Lake CD
Warden
Grant CD
Warden
Othello
Colfax
Whitman CD
Pullman
Pomeroy CD
Palouse CD
Pomeroy
Clarkston
Asotin County CD
Benton CD
Franklin CD
Pasco
Prosser
Columbia CD
Dayton
Walla Walla CD
Walla Walla
Washington Conservation Districts
Commission Headquarters
Conservation District Office
Conservation District Boundary
County Boundary

Adams Conservation District

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Adams Conservation District, with the assistance of the Conservation Commission, hosted the State FFA Soil Judging Competition at Ritzville in October, 2010. Below are winners from the Prosser Chapter.

FFA Soil Judging contestants prepare for the State Competition and receive instructions from NRCS and Adams Conservation District staff.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Gildersleeve Off-Stream Water.

One of the Troughs

Resource Challenge
The Palouse River has recent TMDL reports issued by Department of Ecology. In response, we are supporting our operators in improving water quality on the lower Palouse River. It is well known that water runoff that includes livestock wastes can increase nutrient loading in streams. Disturbance by livestock also increases turbidity of water and sediment loading.

Project Summary and Results
In the summer of 2007 Adams Conservation assisted Harder River Ranch in installing just over one-mile of exclusionary fencing. In the spring of 2011, we were able to assist the operator with funds to install off-stream water troughs over one mile away from the river. This involved the operator digging and installing over one mile of pipe, two troughs, and numerous valves and controllers to make the system operate properly. Whitman Conservation District was able to assist the operator with well development during the previous working season. An existing well used for a center pivot irrigation system was tapped with an auxiliary pump and controller to provide water for animals independent of irrigation. Department of Ecology provided funding for exclusionary fencing in 2007 on just over one mile of the Palouse River. Exclusionary fencing and off-stream water improve water quality by encouraging animals to be farther from riparian areas. The operator will benefit by having better utilization of pasture ground that had limited or no water resources previously. The Palouse River TMDL is leading the District toward more work in WRIA 34 (see *More Work To Do* sidebar) in both livestock management and tillage cropping.

Working with our neighboring conservation districts, the Department of Ecology, and other agencies at all levels of government can help to provide the best in service to our operator clients.

Contact Information

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Ritzville, WA 99169
(509) 659-1553
adamcd@ritzcom.net

Board of Supervisors:
Curtis Hennings, Chair
Dennis Swinger, Vice-Chair
Emmitt Cain, Treasurer
Ron Hennings, Secretary

More Work To Do

Direct Seed Adams Conservation District is collaborating with Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District to develop a Direct Seed Grant through Department of Ecology for operators in Adams CD and Western Palouse-Rock CD. If we are successful, we hope to further expand a direct seed program by applying for grant funds through other agencies such as NRCS, at the State and National levels. We anticipate that CRP ground in Adams County may benefit from a Direct Seed program. Research and development of better practices suited to the special needs of operators in the dryland area of our district should prove beneficial.

Asotin County Conservation District

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Over $600,000 was provided in cost share to improve and conserve natural resources by installing BMPs, including riparian and upland projects, tree planting and watering, CREP, direct seed and livestock projects.

Frost Free Water Trough

Drilling hole for fence corner post

Forestry fuel reduction project

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Tenmile Creek Riparian Enhancement Project

Resource Challenge –
For decades Lower Tenmile Creek has been utilized as a winterfeeding area for livestock. In 2007, landowners worked with the conservation district to relocate the main feeding area to reduce the impact to the stream. There were many resource concerns and there was no one program that could address all the issues. The challenge was to improve fish habitat, riparian vegetation and ground and surface water quality by utilizing financial and technical assistance from multiple partners and funding sources.

Livestock Bridge Crossing

Watering the trees

Tour of Project

Project Summary and Results –
The Tenmile Creek Riparian Enhancement project provides protection to 4,600 feet of stream that includes a 18.6 acre CREP buffer. This project consists of 6,677 feet of riparian fence, a livestock bridge crossing and livestock watering systems. The water developments included one well, an elaborate solar pumping system, two storage tanks and five troughs. There were 3,000 trees and shrubs planted and many will be watered during the next two to three summer to increase the survival rate. This project provides riparian protection and enhancements to an ESA listed stream but maintains the property as "working lands" for current and future generations.

Key Project Partners –
This project is an example of conservation partnerships at their best. Partners include Asotin County Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, Bonneville Power Administration, WA Department of Ecology, WA St Conservation Commission, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, SE Area Engineer and the private landowner.

Contact Information

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www.asotincd.net

Board of Supervisors:
Keith Ausman, Chair
Levi Luhn, Vice-Chair
Jerry Hendrickson, Auditor
Ron Scheibe, Secretary
Rod Hostetler, Member

More Work To Do

- Create DVD/CD highlighting projects to demonstrate the resource benefits achieved by implementing BMPS
- Host a workshop to educate landowners on weed control and identification
- Expand the district's cost-share programs by targeting outreach activities toward landowners in critical areas
- Seek funding opportunities to support the CREP and Livestock programs
- Continue providing technical and financial assistance to landowners

Benton Conservation District

State Legislative District #8, 16
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Benton CD Supervisor
Receives National Recognition

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Dave White presented the NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award to Nicole Berg-Tobin. Berg-Tobin, a wheat farmer from Washington State, was recognized for her superior service to the conservation community in promoting and leading conservation on private lands.

Benton CD Farm
Receives State Award

Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) recognized Mercer Canyons as the 2010 recipient of the State Wildlife Farmer of the Year award. Mercer Canyons irrigates approximately 6,800 acres of prime agricultural land in southern Benton County. They have approximately 2,500 acres that has been set aside and is protected for wildlife habitat.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Yakima River Restoration Efforts

Resource Challenge
Water stargrass is putting a strangle-hold on the Yakima River. Once considered a rare native plant, water stargrass (*Heteranthera dubia*) has become increasingly abundant since 2001. Water stargrass now forms a dense canopy, stretching from bank to bank along the lower 43 miles of the Yakima River (roughly Prosser to Richland). Water stargrass threaten irrigation systems, recreation and safety, fish and aquatic life, water quality and the river itself.

Volunteers Removing Water Stargrass from the Yakima River

Project Summary and Results
During the summer of 2010 the Benton Conservation District with grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation implemented the Community Harvest of Water Stargrass Project. The project was designed to educate shoreline property owners and the general public about problems caused by water stargrass in the lower Yakima River.

Project staff recruited and trained volunteers to restore salmon habitat by removing invasive water stargrass. Property owners, volunteers and staff cleared water stargrass from 1.5 acres of historic salmon spawning habitat. Over 30 volunteers donated over 500 hours of time in the community work parties to harvest water stargrass.

Staff and volunteers monitored the project site to document fish use by adult salmon spawners in October and November. BCD staff and volunteers observed three redds within the project site and identified adult Chinook on the redds on three different occasions in October 2010.

Key Project Partners – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Tapteal Greenway, Friends of Badger Mountain, Friends of Mid-Columbia National Wildlife Refuges, Griggs Hardware, Tri-City Herald, KNDU-TV and KEPR-TV.

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Nicole Berg-Tobin, Member

More Work To Do

Benton Conservation District in cooperation with the South Central RC&D and Washington Conservation Commission is helping to develop a new ecosystems marketing program for central Washington. Ecosystem markets can provide payments to agricultural producers to provide environmental benefits to off-set environmental degradation from other business sectors.

New air quality rules promulgated by EPA relating to wind-blown dust are being watched closely by the district. Regulators will be invited on a tour in the spring of 2012 to view proactive measures being implemented in Benton County.

Cascadia Conservation District

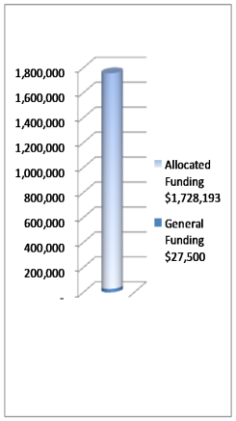
State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Through Washington Conservation Commission programs, Cascadia was able to assist 206 landowners with technical assistance and cost share to upgrade irrigation systems, implement pest and irrigation water management practices, install wildlife habitat improvements, control weeds, and conduct cultural resources investigations for cooperators.

Other funding sources supported stream monitoring, flow metering equipment, irrigation intake and fish passage structures, instream habitat, floodplain reconnection, riparian restoration, livestock exclusion fencing, conservation outreach and education, wildfire fuels reduction, irrigation water wells, river cleanup projects, fish habitat project effectiveness studies, and project planning and development. In all, Cascadia worked on more than 50 projects during the year.

General funds represented only about 2% of the overall budget. Over $1.7 million in projects was leveraged, or 6,284% of the basic funding amount.



2011 Feature Accomplishment

Preston Reach and Entiat Wells

Instream Habitat and Upland Irrigation

Resource Challenge –
Habitat diversity for salmon, steelhead and bull trout are identified as restoration needs in the Water Resource Inventory Area 45 Entiat Watershed Plan. Another goal of the plan is to help keep river temperatures cool for resident fish by keeping as much water as possible in the river during low flow periods and by increasing shade from riparian plants.

Preston Reach, Entiat River - before

Drilling wells for alternate irrigation source points changes the timing of water withdrawal from the Entiat system. Less surface water is removed during low flow periods, relying instead on groundwater from infiltration for the irrigation needs during a critical time for juvenile fish rearing.

The Preston Reach site is one of many identified as a prime location for this work. The Entiat Planning Unit continues to review and prioritize project proposals to implement their locally-developed management plan.

Project Summary and Results –
The work included construction of 14 Large Woody Debris structures along 645 feet of Entiat River bank.

Plant bundles (fascines), live stakes, seedlings, seed and deer fencing were installed in the riparian area. Four wells were installed on two sites to provide temporal replacement of almost 3 cubic feet per second of irrigation water use during low flows.

The completed Preston Reach project includes woody debris for habitat as well as riparian restoration and deer fencing for protection while new vegetation is established at the site.

Key Project Partners –
Project site landowners, Entiat Watershed Planning Unit, US Bureau of Reclamation / American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Funding

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Frank Andrews, Member
Jim Bartelme, Member

More Work To Do

There are additional needs in Chelan County for which funding is limited. These include:

- Upland habitat and general resource restoration, especially technical assistance and cost share for landowners
- Non-salmon stream restoration, fish habitat, riparian revegetation and water quality protection
- Firewise Community support and wildfire fuels reduction

Central Klickitat Conservation District

State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Bowman Creek Spring & Troughs

Central Klickitat Conservation District continues to help local landowners by providing cost share assistance for livestock water improvements, (above), livestock exclusion fencing, hardened feed areas, permanent cover (below), and irrigation efficiency improvements

Permanent Cover (grass) Seeding

The District was active in the area schools, including providing 2nd and 5th grade tree planting days, Water on Wheels for 5th grade, and Water Jam for grades 4-8.

2nd Grade Tree Plant Day

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Little Klickitat River TMDL Implementation Plan.

Resource Challenge – The Little Klickitat River has a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for elevated temperatures. The challenge to lower water temperatures has been the focus of the District for the past several years. Engineers have been completing the designs for projects scheduled for implemented in summer 2011.

Bowman Creek Exclusion Fencing

During fall 2010 and spring 2011 we provided cost share for 2 miles of livestock exclusion fence on Bowman Creek, a major tributary to the Little Klickitat River.

Project Summary and Results – The TMDL is an ongoing, long term program. To date, CKCD has implemented eleven projects on the Little Klickitat and its tributaries, with five more undergoing design to be implemented this fall or next year. These projects are designed by District Cluster Engineers with components for stream bank repair, fish habitat and stream shading. The Detailed Implementation Plan for the TMDL states that all of these Best Management Practices are required elements for implementation of the plan to lower the stream temperature in the Little Klickitat River. In May of 2005, the WRIA 30 Management Plan was completed. This plan included the implementation of the Total Maximum Daily Load Detailed Implementation Plan as a priority action item. All of our in-stream projects on the Little Klickitat River and its tributaries address actions identified in the watershed management plan.

Key Project Partners – Central Klickitat Conservation District has several partners in the TMDL process. Most important are the willing landowners that cooperate by approaching the District about their water quality problems and allow us to design solutions. We have excellent working relationships with Klickitat County Natural Resources and Commissioners, the City of Goldendale, Department of Ecology which funds most of our in stream work, WDFW for permitting, Army Corps of Engineers for permitting, and Yakama Nation Fisheries, who help with project identification.

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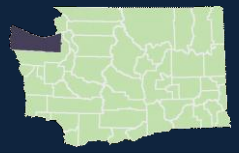
Mike Norris, Member
Dan McCarty, Member

Associate Supervisors:
Wyatt Leighton
John Foltz

More Work To Do

The Total Maximum Daily Load for the Little Klickitat River and its tributaries has been a major focus for the District since the Detailed Implementation Plan was finalized in March 2005.
The District has been working in conjunction with the WRIA 30 Planning Unit and Department of Ecology to implement strategies to mitigate the temperature TMDL. We have five stream restoration projects identified with construction on two slated for summer 2011.
CKCD is working with Klickitat County on a Straight to Implementation (STI) plan for Swale Creek.

Clallam Conservation District



State Legislative District #24
Congressional District #6

Other Accomplishments

- 2.75 miles of irrigation ditch piped, saving 3.5-4 cfs of Dungeness River water
- 123 participants in 5 horse and livestock water quality workshops
- 142 individuals assisted, included 57 soil tests
- 9 farm plans prepared or updated for 207 acres
- Heavy use area protection on 11 farms
- 92 acres of nutrient management on 8 farms
- 132 acres of pasture management on 12 farms
- Roof runoff management on 3 farms
- 1,640 feet of riparian fencing on 3 farms
- 9.3 acres riparian planting
- 3 barriers to fish passage corrected

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Sustainable Landscaping

Resource Challenge
A well designed and maintained landscape can have a positive impact on the environment. It uses less water, minimizes stormwater runoff, prevents water pollution from pesticides and fertilizers, improves air quality, and enhances biodiversity. And, less maintenance is required.

Conversely, a poorly designed landscape can be harmful to the environment. Helping homeowners design environmentally sustainable landscapes is the challenge.

Project Summary and Results
Clallam Conservation District has conducted workshops, short courses and presentations on environmentally friendly landscaping for over 20 years. 2010-11 was a banner year with a total of 444 participants attending 21 of these educational events.

Four five-session natural landscaping short courses were filled to capacity. The courses cover all aspects of sustainable landscaping, including fire-wise landscaping and stormwater management.

Key Project Partners
Homeowners
City of Port Angeles Public Works
Dungeness River Audubon Center
Washington State University Cooperative Extension
Washington State Conservation Commission

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Nash Huber, Member
Marilyn Pollock, Member

More Work To Do

Stormwater Management
Continue Natural Landscaping education program. Implement Master Gardener LID demonstration project.

Water Conservation
Implement Dungeness Irrigation Group ditch piping phase 2.

Water Quality
Continue assisting high priority farms with conservation planning and BMP implementation.

Salmon Recovery
Replace culverts on Coville Creek. Continue implementing CREP projects.

Clark Conservation District

State Legislative District #15,17,18,49
Congressional District #3

Other Accomplishments

Assisted Clark Co. and agricultural landowners with habitat protection through the County Agricultural Habitat Conservation Ordinance.

Outreach at fairs, shows, and exhibits provide hundreds of landowners with assistance.

Over 13,000 native trees and shrubs to local residents.

2011 Feature Accomplishments

Community Involvement for Natural Resource Conservation

Campen Creek Restoration – Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, a local group of citizens that help with habitat restoration projects on National Wildlife refuges, planted more than 300 plants along Campen Creek in Washougal. Twenty two volunteers spent 62 hours in the planting effort. Campen Creek is a tributary to Gibbons Creek which flows into the Columbia River. The plantings will benefit fish habitat as well as water quality.

Volunteer planting on Campen Creek

Project Oakquest – Project Oakquest outreached to, and educated youth on the importance of public stewardship and management of imperiled oak woodland ecosystems. Community awareness and appreciation for fragile oak woodlands assists in protecting and improving the habitat and ecosystem functions. Volunteers from agencies, local organizations, and individuals contributed a great amount to this project. We had more than 30 adults participate in the workshop and field trips as instructors and chaperones, and over 150 students participate in the program. There were more than 1,150 volunteer hours put into this project, including teachers and students. This project was funded in part through a WDFW Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant.

Students on a field trip with Project Oakquest

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More Work To Do

There is a high amount of pressure on Clark County natural resources, and an increased need for education and assistance to Clark County landowners-

- Clark County has the 2nd highest population density in WA State.
- The Troutdale Aquifer, an EPA designated sole-source aquifer, supplies the county population with 99% of their drinking water.
- Over 34,000 horses reside in the county, along with numerous other livestock.
- An inventory shows 3,625 culverts blocking fish passage into county streams.

Columbia Conservation District

State Legislative District #16
Congressional District #5

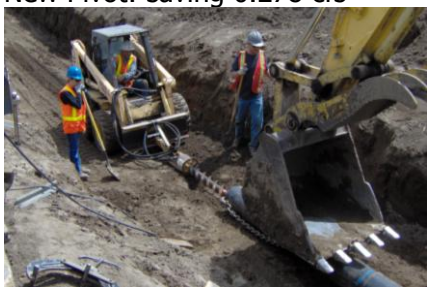
Other Accomplishments

Building Young Leaders - a Direct Seed Student Presentation at Annual Growers Meeting.

Direct Seed Alternative Residue Management Cost Share Program Implemented with 12 producers covering 2,007 acres to reduce soil/tillage erosion & field burning.

Irrigation Efficiencies Trusting saved water to an instream use.

New Pivot: saving 0.278 cfs



Boring a railroad crossing: saving 1.22 cfs by converting 9,150ft. of open ditch to a closed system.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Tucannon River Geomorphic Assessment.

Resource Challenge –
Develop an updated, current condition resource data baseline for Salmon recovery priority project planning in the Tucannon River basin which drains approximately 503 square miles. Assess current conditions to identify priority restoration actions based on best scientific data available addressing salmon habitat recovery and landowner compatibility.

Tucannon River Geomorphic measurement and assessment field work

Setting the stage for future habitat recovery work

Project Summary and Results –
CCD took the lead in updating baseline resource data on the Tucannon River, home to 4 ESA listed species including Spring Chinook salmon which are a critical species of concern for BPA and their recovery commitments under the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (FCRPS BiOp). Utilizing BPA funding CCD contracted with Watershed Sciences, Corvallis, OR for Light Detection and Ranging data (LiDAR) and true-color ortho-photographs on 51 miles of the Tucannon River floodplain. Funding from BPA and SRFB supported CCD contracting with Anchor QEA, LLC, Bellingham WA to perform geomorphic assessments on 33.8 miles of the Tucannon River. Assessment included hydrologic analysis, sediment transport and mobility, sediment budget and reach characteristics including channel and floodplain conditions, channel confinement and historic channel occupations area. This assessment is intended to strengthen the technical understanding of existing physical conditions and geomorphic processes in the basin in order to identify and prioritize habitat restoration opportunities compatible with landowners.

Key Project Partners -
Private Landowners, Bonneville Power Administration, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Regional Technical Team

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More Work To Do

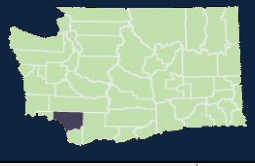
Develop producer leadership - address current political economic issues in production ag and natural resources.

Complete remaining 15.5 miles of Tucannon River geomorphic assessment.

Working with technical staff and landowners to identify restoration projects and secure funding for implementation.

Provide technical & cost share to landowners addressing District's annual and long range plan objectives and goals.

Cowlitz Conservation District



State Legislative District #18, 19
Congressional District #3

Other Accomplishments

Coweeman River Community Watershed Project Implementation

Coweeman River Bedrock Channel Pre-Project

Coweeman River LWD Structures (sediment accumulation and reduce width:depth ratio)

Abernathy Creek channel margin rearing habitat structure

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Community Watershed Planning and Implementation.

Salmon recovery, water quality, and invasive weeds are but a few of the resource challenges that do not recognize property lines. Obtaining a measurable response typically requires implementation of a wide range of best management practices over a large spatial area managed by highly diverse interests.

Abernathy Creek Community Watershed Salmon Recovery Habitat Wood Structure

The principles of Coordinated Resource Management are being used to work with landowners at the community watershed scale. Salmon recovery issues include habitat complexity, channel stability, fish access, and improving riparian function. Stream temperature, dissolved oxygen, and fine sediment delivery are the primary water quality concerns. Japanese Knotweed is spreading in local watersheds at an alarming rate.

Coweeman River Watershed: The district has assisted with correcting eight fish passage barriers, installing five stream restoration projects, and planning for three additional stream restoration projects. In 2011, the district implemented two restoration projects and has assisted three landowners with plans and project funding proposals that have been well received. Efforts are underway to work with the Cowlitz County Weed Board to identify an avenue to manage Japanese Knotweed in the watershed.

Abernathy Creek Watershed: The district has assisted two landowners with stream restoration projects. In 2011, an additional stream restoration project was completed spanning two additional ownerships.

The District is planning follow up meetings with the communities to share activities and further promote involvement in local efforts to address watershed resource concerns

Key Partners: Landowners, WDFW, ACOE, Cowlitz County Weed Board, WSCC, Pacific Fibre Products, Inc., Local School Districts, and LCFRB

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Jim Scott, Member
Jim Mallet, Member

More Work To Do

Continue to implement Conservation Districts Long Range and Annual Plans

Coordinate and cooperate with resource partners to identify means to address local resource concerns.

Continue education / outreach efforts to increase local awareness of resource concerns and opportunities to address them.

Conduct legislative tours to illustrate the effectiveness a watershed approach at addressing natural resource issues

Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

2nd Grade Tree Planting

Rock Creek during spring flow

Our water quality technician goes to 20 sites once each month to download data from the HOBO data loggers, take readings for pH, conductivity, turbidity and stream velocity. This information is down loaded into Ecology's Environmental Information Management (EIM) database.

Wood Gulch Monitoring Location

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Rock Creek Water Quality Improvement Protection Plan

Resource Challenge –
Rock Creek is listed as a category 5 stream on Ecology's 303(d) list, needing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for elevated temperatures. EKCD is working with Department of Ecology and Klickitat County to develop a plan that will substitute for the TMDL. EKCD has hosted stakeholder meetings to give input to Ecology and Klickitat County in the development of the WQIPP management plan.

Project Summary and Results –
Eastern Klickitat Conservation District has funded an extensive channel morphology and canopy closure study on Rock Creek. Using a grant from Department of Ecology, in cooperation with Klickitat County Natural Resources and the WRIA 31 Water Resource Planning and Advisory Committee (PAC) a Water Cleanup Plan that addresses warm water temperatures in the Rock Creek basin is being developed. The data collected will support the development of the Cleanup Plan. The WQIPP is being developed with stakeholder (landowner) input and will provide the basis for the salmonid recovery projects, habitat improvement projects and water quantity projects on Rock Creek and its tributaries.
Potential stream shade or in-stream modification projects will be identified from this and other studies being conducted by Yakama Nation Fisheries (YNFP), Klickitat County Natural Resources and USGS. EKCD is applying for funding for additional studies in partnership with YNFP which will include the Tribal land in Rock Creek. The resulting report from this study will pave the way for implementation of on the ground habitat enhancement projects.

Key Project Partners –
Key partners with Eastern Klickitat Conservation District are Implementation funding from Washington Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, Klickitat County Natural Resources and Yakama Nation Fisheries.

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Doug Grabner, Vice-Chair
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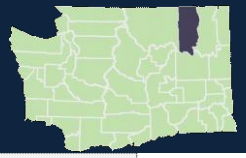
Ron Juris, Member
Rhon Raschco, Member

More Work To Do

With the installation of hundreds of electricity producing windmills in the District, EKCD has taken an active part in assisting wind energy developers in mitigating for wildlife losses.

Rock Creek and other 303(d) listed streams in WRIA 31 are under increased scrutiny and the District is on the forefront of developing management plans and doing studies to find ways to implement BMPs. The flashy nature of the streams in the District makes implementation of BMPs without adequate study and preparation risky.

Ferry Conservation District



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

200 + acres of range land re-seeded.

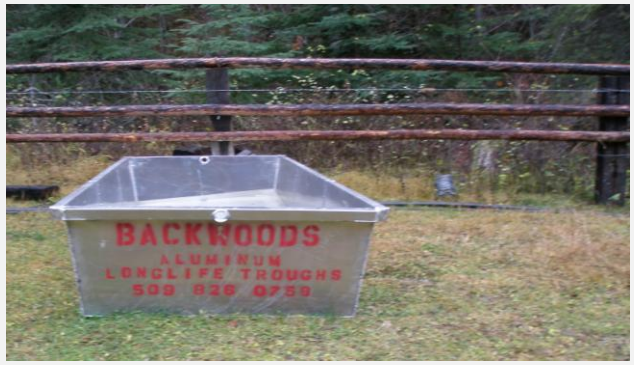
1.5 Miles of riparian fencing.

One of four off-stream water projects in which the Ferry Conservation District participated.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Resource Challenge:
The owners of a horse and cattle ranch in Ferry County were very concerned with protecting the riparian area along their two miles of Catherine Creek. They had entered into a Riparian Timber Easement with WDNR. What they lacked was a fence to keep livestock out of the riparian area.

Project Summary and Results:
We applied for and received a Terry Husseman Grant from the Department of Ecology. We received $40,000 for labor and materials, but nothing to pay for administration or project management. To cover those costs we used $2,000 from Conservation Commission Grant funds. At the same time, the land owners' conservation efforts earned them a USDA NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program award of more than $120,000. Our small contribution earned big results in conservation implementation.



Cooperating Agencies:
Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Department Natural Resources, Ferry Conservation District

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Patty McKern, Auditor
Charlotte Coombes, Member
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More Work To Do

Only 17% of the land in Ferry County is privately owned. How do we maintain a viable agricultural land base?

In the face of mounting environmental pressure how do we accommodate a growing population and maintain our quality of life?

Foster Creek Conservation District

State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Fifteen landowners participated in the FCCD Biological Weed Control Program. This resulted in the implementation of 50 BMP's in Douglas County.

Tim Behne, FCCD and Ken Bevis, WDFW Steward performing Spawning Surveys.

Over 2,500 viewed FCCD's Amazing World of Pollinators Fair Display in August of 2010.

330 Conservation Plans encompassing 63,000 acres were developed

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Lower Moses Coulee Recharge Basin

Resource Challenge –
To increase groundwater recharge and to maintain critical in-stream flows for fish and enhance irrigation supplies during late summer months in the Lower Moses Coulee, WRIA 44.

Pre-Construction Site Visit: L-R Ryan Roberts, WSCC Design Engineer; Mark Amara, Cultural Resources Consultant; Dave Billingsley, Landowner; Britt Dudek

Project Summary and Results -
This project consisted of the construction of two infiltration basins each 60 feet wide and 180 feet long with a depth of approximately one and a half feet. The following results are expected:

- Minimization of flooding to approximately 95 acres.
- Recharge groundwater at a rate of 378 cubic feet per second.
- Provide additional water to maintain critical in-stream flows for fish and irrigation supplies to approximately 9.5 miles of waterbody.
- The stored water will provide additional water to the Columbia River during the low flow months of July and August.

Before Construction

After Construction

Key Project Partners –
The Douglas County Watershed Planning Unity representing over 30 local, state and federal entities, WA State Conservation Commission, WA Department of Ecology,. WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resource Conservation Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service

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Sharon Davis, Member

More Work To Do

- Finalize negotiations of the Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan with USFWS for 17 threatened, endangered, and/or species of concern on no-federal agricultural lands.
- Develop approximately 83 Conservation Plans with NRCS.
- Continue to develop Conservation Plans with USDA Farm Service Agency of 63,000 acres of land into the State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) program to protect greater sage and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

Franklin Conservation District

State Legislative District #9, 16
Congressional District #4

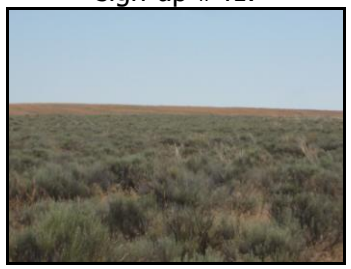
Other Accomplishments

Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area Age Dates Ground Water

Age dating ground water can assist water managers in assessing recharge sources and pathways. Franklin CD helped sample numerous wells specifically targeting the declining aquifer in the Odessa ground water sub-area. Many of the wells contained water over 10,000 years old. This implies a very limited recharge source to this imperiled aquifer system. Bringing surface water from the Columbia River to this area may be the only way to save the aquifer.

Franklin CD Assists USDA with Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Franklin CD staff conducted field inspections on 28 fields covering 1567 acres of CRP plantings. The inspections were to ensure that the plant species and densities met certification criteria for CRP sign-up #41.



2011 Feature Accomplishment

Wildlife Habitat Serves Dual Role

Resource Challenge

In many areas all over the world, pollinators are in decline. Feral honey bee populations in the US have dropped about 90% in the past 50 years. At the same time managed honey bee colonies have dropped by about two thirds. The Xerces Society has indicated that the best way to conserve pollinators is to protect, enhance or provide habitat.

Established Wildlife/Pollinator Planting

Project Summary and Results

For several years the Franklin Conservation District, with funding from the Washington State Conservation Commission, has offered producers technical and financial assistance to implement upland wildlife habitat projects. The Conservation District designed the habitat to foster food and shelter for upland wildlife such as pheasants and deer.

With the increased focus and concern regarding pollinators the district looked to incorporate species in the proposed planting plans that would also benefit pollinators. Information provided by the Xerces Society and the Natural Resource Conservation Service was consulted and planting plans were adopted that included a greater abundance of flowering shrubs that would also benefit pollinators.

The dual role of upland wildlife habitat now has conservation district staff thinking about "wildlife" in a whole new way. Not only are the needs of larger species considered but also bees, butterflies and other pollinators are addressed as well.

Key Project Partners - Franklin Conservation District, Washington State Conservation Commission, Xerces Society, Natural Resource Conservation Service and numerous landowners in Franklin County.

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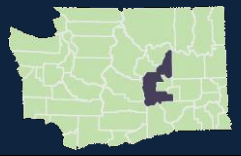
Scott Moore, Vice-Chair
George Poulson, Treasurer
Chris Herron, Member
Dick Bengen, Member

More Work To Do

Franklin Conservation District will be working with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service to evaluate a new landscape energy conservation tool. The goal of the tool is to identify areas within a farming operation where energy conservation opportunities exist.

Franklin Conservation District is contributing funds to Washington State University to assist in the development of a new deep furrow drill. The goal of the project is to develop a new drill that can seed into large amounts of surface residue. This will give growers a new tool to help prevent wind erosion and improve air quality.

Grant Conservation District



State Legislative District #9, 12, 13
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Runoff Control Improvements

IWM Moisture Monitoring

IWM Cost Share

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Waste Transfer Line Conserves Nutrients & Simplifies Dairy Management

Resource Challenge – Handling liquid manure several times before final application is tedious and increases the risk of a spill. An undersized tank can fill up with solids and overflow without notice. In addition to creating a big mess, soils can become overloaded with nutrients, ditches receive contaminated runoff, and persons responsible can be cited for a discharge. Flex hoses and cam locks were not the answer.

Project Summary and Results –
After purchasing an unused dairy to raise heifers for their main dairy, owners of the RuBen Dairy in Ephrata knew something had to be done to improve the waste transfer system. The Grant Conservation District had developed a nutrient management plan for their main dairy so they made a request to the GCD for technical assistance and cost share to complete a project to manage the nutrients on this facility more efficiently.

For years semi-solid manure from the previous operation was scraped into a 150,000 gallon underground tank through a slotted floor. When full the manure would be pumped out onto the ground where the solids were allowed to dry slightly before being spread onto cropland. Large amounts of nitrogen were lost as a gas. Subsequently extra nitrogen fertilizer had to be purchased to meet crop yield goals.

The improvement project included replacing the aboveground flex hose with an 8" buried PVC pipe and running it out to an unused storage lagoon approximately 1,000 ft. away. The buried line and materials were installed following NRCS standards and specifications.

The improved pump station features a pto-driven submersible manure pump and is designed so liquids may be transferred directly into tanker trucks or diverted to the lagoon for long term storage.

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Paul Stoker, Member

More Work To Do

- Work with Bonneville Power, Grant Co. PUD , & local farmers on improving energy efficiencies
- Continue & expand Irrigation Water Management (IWM) program in GCD boundaries
- Work with DOE & local growers to process burn permit applications
- Develop Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) & revise existing NMPs for livestock operations
- Organizational & Administrative support for popular annual Othello Sandhill Crane Festival
- Develop cost share projects that conserve natural resources & provide technical assistance, administration, & education.

Grays Harbor Conservation District

State Legislative District #19, 24, 35
Congressional District #6

Other Accomplishments

Forest Planner T. Marquardt surveys a forest stand for production of a Forest Mgnt. Plan. 27 landowners were assisted & 3 plans were produced protecting 4 stream miles and 521 acres.

Completed 3 new Nutrient Mgnt. Plans. Provided T/A to 10 dairy operations and 2 non-dairy operations.

Participants of the 2nd Annual Fun Forestry Day learn about trail building/maintenance methods from Richard Atkins.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

FISH PASSAGE BARRIER

Resource Challenge –
The undersized 4 ft. round steel culvert has a 2 ft. outfall at the downstream end. Currently the culvert bottom has collapsed in the center and the culvert is now a total barrier so fish access is no longer possible. This un-named tributary to the Wishkah River offers spawning & rearing for coho, chum, cutthroat trout as well as rearing for other juvenile salmonid species that inhabit the main river like Chinook and steelhead. This is one of three streams on the east side of the Upper Wishkah that has access to off channel habitat for salmonids.

Undersized culvert is removed

Project Summary and Results –
The undersized and collapsed culvert was removed and replaced with a 65 ft. long, 14 ft. wide concrete bridge. Although this project only opened up roughly 2100 ft. of habitat upstream from the culvert it is excellent habitat that is critical for salmonid rearing in a river system where most of the side streams have no access or high waterfall barriers. Coho, Chinook, and steelhead juveniles rear in this stream and access it during high winter flows. Spawning coho have been observed in the stream when high waters allow access. The now accessible habitat has abundant large woody debris, good pooling and about 40% of the habitat has excellent spawning gravel for salmonids.

6 mos. after project completion

This project is featured in a video prepared by USF&W Service and WA State Dept. of Natural Resources at http://www.youtube.com/usfws#p/c/00CA362652FF8AB3/3/0BeTumXk5fc
Project partners include Recreation & Conservation Office, FFFPP, & USF&W Service.

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Steve Hallstrom, Member

More Work To Do

Water Resources:
Continue our work on removal of identified fish passage barriers.
Continue our work with cranberry producers on installation of approved water quality BMP's
Forestland:
Continue to provide Forest Management Plans, technical assistance, and educational opportunities to NIPF landowners
Livestock:
Continue to provide technical assistance and NMP updates and production to current and new cooperators
Cropland:
Work with small agricultural producers on conservation plans

Jefferson County Conservation District

State Legislative District #24
Congressional District #6

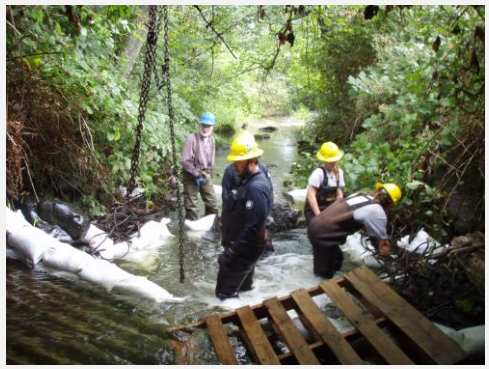
Other Accomplishments

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Planted 2 new CREP buffers and performed maintenance on 20 existing contracts.

Water Quality Monitoring.
Monitored water quality in 3 watersheds and shared monthly results with landowners. Involved student volunteers with field and lab work.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Salmon Cr./Uncas Rd. Culvert



Resource Challenge –
During late summer low flows the Uncas Rd. culvert on Salmon Cr. presents a partial barrier to Summer Chum Salmon passage upstream. Replacement of the culvert is problematic due to funding and adjacent landowner issues.

Project Summary and Results –
Summer Chum Salmon return to Salmon Cr. to spawn in late August/September. The creek is located in the rainshadow of the Olympic Mtns. and experiences the lowest flows at this time of year. The drop out of the culvert presents a barrier to the summer chum salmon though it is passable to other species utilizing the creek during higher flows. The culvert is in reasonable shape so isn't slated to be replaced for maintenance reasons in the near future. Proposed replacement options to provide passage impact private property on both the upstream and downstream sides. Due to landowner concerns access to the site is restricted to the county road right-of-way. To provide passage through the culvert for returning Summer Chum Salmon Jefferson Co. Conservation District took the lead at finding a solution. A plan was developed to utilize temporary sandbag weirs to provide passage for the chum which was acceptable to landowners. JCCD has done the permitting, project planning and coordination for this project. Summer chum have been able to utilize the good spawning habitat upstream of the culvert thanks to this project.

Partnerships -
North Olympic Salmon Coalition: provides volunteers or a WA Conservation Corps crew to install and remove the sandbags.

Jefferson Co. Public Works: Provides materials needed and an excavator and crew to lower the sandbags down to the creek from the county road.

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More Work To Do

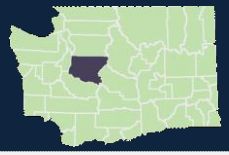
Continue water quality monitoring program to document improvements due to BMP implementation, and to target problem areas.

Expand forest management technical assistance program for the numerous small forest landowners in Jefferson Co.

Assist agricultural landowners with Critical Area Ordinance issues.

Support local efforts targeting farmland protection, farming infrastructure and food sustainability.

King Conservation District



State Legislative District #1, 11, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48
Congressional District #1, 2, 7, 8, 9

Other Accomplishments

Conservation Farm Plans
92 delivered

WRIA and Member Jurisdiction Grant Programs - 2010
61 grants awarded with for total of $4,448,000 in funding

Landowner Partnerships Restoration Projects
5.3 acres of total project area restored,
One mile of stream/wetland shorelines restored,
6,826 total native plants installed

Volunteer Program
960 volunteers were engaged to apply 3,230 volunteer hours towards 63 projects

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
7.75 acres of buffer area,
3,250 feet of stream shoreline restored with 3,489 native plants

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Point Heyer Drift Cell Preservation Project

King Conservation District (King CD), through its partnership grant program with the Green-Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watersheds Forum (WRIA 9), provided critical matching funds for the Point Heyer Drift Cell Preservation project. King CD's grant to King County contributed to this regionally significant project which aims to protect and preserve one of the few highly functioning drift cells remaining in Central Puget Sound.

A drift cell is a self-contained coastal unit within which sediment is distributed by wave action creating important habitat features. Shoreline armoring disrupts the natural sediment processes and can result in increased erosion and loss of beach habitat. The drift cell begins at the feeder bluffs at Vashon Landing and terminates about 2.2 miles south at the Point Heyer barrier lagoon. The acquisition protects and preserves critical ecosystem functions and wildlife habitat.

This project enabled the protection of the largest salt marsh and last remaining barrier lagoon in King County in addition to preserving the shoreline's sediment processes, riparian area, intertidal and upper shore habitats. These habitat amenities are critical for providing feeding, growth, refuge and migration functions for salmon and other wildlife. Other aquatic resources include a significant geoduck and shellfish population as well as endangered orcas seen off shore. In addition to habitat benefits, this project protects scenic resources to be enjoyed for its passive recreation and open space amenities.

Partnership support of this project was received in the form of endorsement by the WRIA 9 Forum and letters of support from Vashon Beach Naturalists, Vashon Maury Island Land Trust and Vashon Audubon. The funding this project received is a testament to the regional partnerships created. Since 2008, this project has received funding from 7 different sources (SRFB, ALEA, King County Surface Water Management, King County Parks Levy, King Conservation District – WRIA 9, Conservation Futures, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program).

In the future, King CD would like to continue collaborating with our partners to reach out to landowners along the drift cell and begin discussions about different approaches to shoreline armoring.

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Max Prinsen, Auditor
Preston Drew, Member
Eric Nelson, Member

More Work To Do

The District continues to see a large demand for services in both the rural communities as well as the urban areas.

In addition to our WRIA and Jurisdiction grant program, the District has a successful Landowner Incentive Program and Opportunity Fund to implement projects with private landowners.

We will continue to focus on protecting Puget Sound, maintaining sustainable working farms and forests, and enhancing habitat by working cooperatively with landowners.

Kitsap Conservation District

State Legislative District #23, 26, 35
Congressional District #1, 6

Key Project Partners

Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Program
WSU Extension, UW Sea Grant, Kitsap Economic Development Alliance, Kitsap County Health District, Thurston Conservation District, Washington Conservation Corps

Accomplishments

Kitsap Conservation District completed numerous Best Management Practices and agricultural designs, provided community education on agriculture and natural resources in 2011. KCD completed:

- 19 Conservation Plans
- 482 Site visits
- 1,074 Landowner contacts
- 42 Education events
- 90 BMPs

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Low Impact Stormwater Retrofit Reaches Kitsap County Fairgrounds

Kitsap County Fairgrounds installs large rain gardens to manage stormwater runoff.

Resource Challenge –
The Kitsap County Fairgrounds suffered from storm water flooding into nearby Barker Creek and Dyes Inlet shellfish beds. The fairgrounds exceeded TMDL limits for sediments and fecal coliform.

Project Summary and Results –
The goal of the project is to infiltrate 100% of the stormwater runoff and improve manure management. With assistance from Washington Conservation Corps and youth volunteers, KCD designed waste storage structures, pervious concrete roadways, roof runoff management systems, and rain gardens. In 2011, the large rain gardens were installed just in time for the fair attendees to see. Waste storage structures were located near livestock areas such as the animal barns and rodeo arena in order to collect manure before it washed into Barker Creek.

Education and outreach for the project included rain garden, native plant and restoration workshops. These were held at the fairgrounds for the general public. Kids were an important audience too and KCD toured 4th grade school classes through the grounds to help them understand the need to control flooding and erosion. Signage was included at the rain gardens describing the function and benefits of stormwater infiltration.

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Jackie Lovely, Vice-Chair
Frank Varley, Auditor
Albert Allpress, Member
Nikki Johanson, Member

More Work to Do

KCD has worked with Kitsap County to create a Backyard Habitat Grant Program in 2011.

Kittitas County Conservation District

State Legislative District #13
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Wild Horse Spring Enhancement Work

As part of the Wild Horse CRM, work was completed to improve and enhance eight springs used for stock water in the Vantage Hwy, Whiskey Jim and Parke Creek pastures. The rancher who leases the lands replaced pipelines and stock tanks, while WDFW provided fencing to protect riparian areas around the springs.

Rancher excavating for replacement of the pipeline at one of springs

Before- Stock tanks located adjacent to Parke Creek

After- New stock tank located away from Parke Creek

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Manastash Creek Instream Flow Enhancement

Assembly of a pivot sprinkler system on lands irrigated with Manastash Creek water.

Resource Challenge – The Manastash Creek Restoration Project has worked for years to address fish screen, fish passage and instream flow needs in Manastash Creek. A dewatered reach of stream in the lower 6 miles impacts fish passage upper Manastash Creek. In concert with the construction of fish screen and fish passage structures and facilities at irrigation diversions, the acquisition of water to improve instream flow is an identified high priority.

Project Summary and Results – Two previous activities acquired water for instream flow. The first was a Reverse Auction conducted in 2008 that acquired slightly more than 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) that now remains in Manastash Creek instead of being diverted for irrigation. The second was a sprinkler conversion project on 99 acres irrigated with Manastash Creek water that acquired 1.7 cfs. In a cooperative effort to continue the irrigation system improvements, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service approved an application to the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) for the Manastash watershed. This was one of only a few applications approved nationwide in 2010. In the fall of 2010, KCCD and NRCS staff secured two cost-share agreements with irrigators totaling over $200,000 (NRCS funds) on approximately 200 acres. Matching funds were secured for these two projects through the Bonneville Power Administration and Washington Conservation Commission's Irrigation Efficiencies Program. The projects included two sprinkler systems that were installed in time for the 2011 growing season. In combination with the previous projects and actions, a total of 6.3 cfs are secured to improve Manastash Creek instream flow in perpetuity. Additional projects are currently in the planning stages including two more sprinkler conversion projects and a pipeline project.

Key Project Partners – Manastash Creek Steering Committee, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bonneville Power Administration, and Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project.

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Ron Gibb, Member

More Work To Do

Fish Screening & Passage
- Coleman Creek (2 Projects)
- Manastash Creek (2 Projects)
- Teanaway River (5 Projects)

Irrigation System Improvements
- Manastash Sprinklers (2 projects)
- Manastash Pipelines (1 project)
- Small Project Cost Share for irrigation upgrades (8-10 projects)

Water Quality
- PAM Cost Share Agreements to reduce soil erosion (1800 acres)
- CREP riparian planting (6 acres)

Wildland Fire – Fuels Reduction
- Community fire plans (2)
- Roving Chipper (826 acres)
- Shaded Fuel Break (50 acres)
- Home Site Assessments (22)
- Individual defensible space projects (32 acres)

Lewis County Conservation District

State Legislative District #20
Congressional District #3

Other Accomplishments

Nicole Rasmussen, Quinault Nation Fish Biologist, measuring a passable culvert

Independence Creek Tributary in Lewis County. In addition to being a fish barrier this failing culvert was impeding access to a farm.

The project after completion.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Quinault Indian Reservation Culvert Assessment

Culverts, if improperly installed or deteriorated over time, can prevent or limit the ability of adult and juvenile salmonids to access all habitats. The Quinault Indian Nation, which is located in Grays Harbor County, had received a grant for conducting an inventory of fish passage culverts but they needed technical expertise. The Nation contracted with the District to get the job accomplished.

Surveying culvers in the Quinault Indian Nation

Project Summary and Results – Our first day at the Nation, their technical team handed us a GPS unit that had a map of where streams and roads crossed each other and told us to go find what was out there. Using this data, we spent two years tracking down culverts throughout the reservation; even if that meant walking through the woods on abandoned roads. In the end, we located 422 culverts on fish bearing streams. Of these culverts, 316 (75%) of them were barriers. We also collected data on streams and roads that were not mapped correctly, barriers that had been removed, non- fish culverts that could be causing sediment delivery to roads, and bridges.

The second phase of the project was to prioritize the barriers so that the worst would be replaced first. Prioritization involved walking upstream of the barrier and assessing the quality and quantity of the spawning and rearing habitat. The amount of habitat, the species of fish that would utilize the stream, the improvement in passability, and the cost were all factored together to come up with a priority index number. The streams often went longer or were shorter than mapped, so the data collected was very valuable to the nation. In addition to prioritizing the barriers, this information could be used to maintain proper riparian buffers. Overall, a total of 42 prioritizations were completed over the course of a year. A map based culvert prioritization was also created so that the nation could have an idea for removing or replacing the remaining barriers.

The nation has already removed or replaced 29 culverts to open up valuable fish habitat. Eleven more projects will be completed this summer.

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Marvin Courtney, Vice-Chair
Ann Tuning, Secretary/Treasurer
Chuck Hayes, Member
Ken Crocker, Member

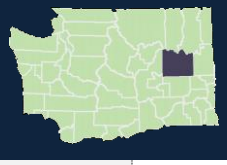
Associate Supervisor:
Chris Aldrich

More Work To Do

Forest Land: There are approximately 145,774 acres of non-industrial private forest land in Lewis County. To date we have provided very little assistance to these stakeholders due to the lack of funding.

Agriculture Land: There are 357,971 acres of privately owned agriculture land in Lewis County. Landowners are consistently requesting new and updated conservation plans.

Lincoln County Conservation District



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

WDFW ALEA grant 5 miles of fence removal for sage grouse

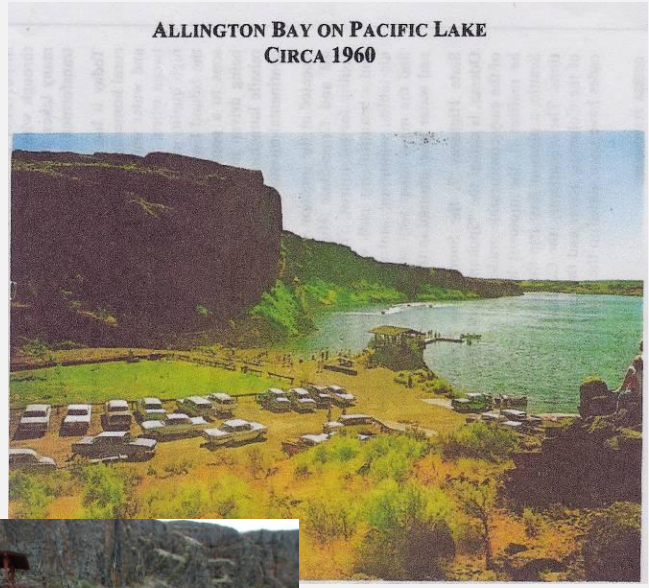
WRIA 53 static well monitoring

TSP with NRCS to check EQIP practices

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Passive Rehydration Project

Resource Challenge – Declining groundwater levels have been an issue in Lincoln County and in adjacent counties within the Odessa Subarea starting back as the late 1960s. Pumping of groundwater by deep irrigation wells, municipal wells and other uses have led to groundwater levels declining.



Partnerships:
Dept of Ecology
&
GSI Water Solutions

Project Summary and Results – The ultimate goal of the Passive Rehydration Project is to deliver water from Lake Roosevelt to the Crab Creek drainage (watershed) within Lincoln County. Using available scientific information, preliminary field reconnaissance, basic engineering assessments, interviews with landowners in and around the potentially affected area, review of water rights availability, and formation provided by personnel with various federal and state agencies, the Prefeasibility Assessment for the Lincoln County Conservation District Rehydration Project was done to determine if work should move forward into a feasibility phase. The feasibility phase would further define the scope of a project and potentially start the permit and authorization process, eventually resulting in the planning and implementing of a pilot scale project.

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Alan Stromberger, Vice-chair
Eddie Johnson, Auditor
Keith Schafer, Secretary
Mike Carstensen, Member

More Work To Do

- Inventory of Spalding Catchfly
- Controlling Leafy Spurge Grant
- Technical Service Provider with NRCS to complete the Adams & Lincoln County CRP, EQIP, Cultural Resource Surveys, Energy Landscape Audits work load
- Passive Rehydration SEPA process
- Livestock Grant completion
- Assist with 4 producers to install best management practices
- Work with the City of Davenport to restore a portion of Cottonwood Creek
- Remove 5 miles of interior fence at Swanson Lake WDFW

Mason Conservation District

State Legislative District #35
Congressional District #6

Other Accomplishments

The District *implements on-the-ground conservation and restoration* to achieve:

- Water Quality in the entire watershed.
- Increased economic diversity.
- Improved stewardship and increased restoration of habitat.

District education programs *support on-the-ground conservation and restoration* for both adult and youth. These programs include:

- Educating landowner's about Best Management Practices.
- Holding natural resource conservation educational events in the community.
- Educating agricultural entrepreneurs about sustainable farming practices and farm business planning by co-sponsoring Cultivating Success courses.
- Expanding existing school outreach and education efforts.
- Educating 5,000 people from throughout the Puget Sound region about salmon habitat protection through visits to the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail.
- Educating 1,000 youth in 4th and 5th grades through two field day events.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Initiative to Assess and Restore Riparian habitats in Hood Canal.

Mason CD's Washington Conservation Corps Crew implements riparian restoration initiative in the Hood Canal.

Resource Challenge - Riparian habitats are the most fundamental building block for protecting aquatic freshwater and marine ecosystems and the species that depend on them. Virtually all watershed assessments and species recovery plans from landscape to reach to watershed scales call for improving riparian habitat quality/quantity and reducing their increasing fragmentation. Riparian habitats are Declining and degrading across the Hood Canal watershed.

Project Summary and Results – The primary objectives of this initiative were to:

- ☐ Move riparian areas toward a later seral stage by planting native conifers, shrub and hardwood species, where appropriate.
- ☐ Expand the quantity and improve the quality of riparian buffers.

The second objective of this project has focused on planting and nurturing areas that are high priority, low maintenance and not qualified for other programs conservation programs.
The Initiative resulted in nearly 150 acres of riparian restoration, including enrollment of 43 acres in an NRCS Flood Plain easement and enrollment of 74 acres in CREP.

Key Project Partners – Skokomish Farms, Washington State Resource Conservation Office, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, Mason County Noxious Weed Board, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington Conservation Corps.

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Adam James, Vice-Chair
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Bill Burrows, Member
Bonnie Hall, Member
Rick Schmeling, Associate

More Work To Do

The District continues to be a leader in efforts to create a diversified economy, while protecting the natural resource heritage of the community.

- Rapid population growth continues to increase pressure on natural resources.
- Water quality of area rivers, lakes, and marine shorelines continues to be impacted by increasing pollutants from surface water sources.
- Agricultural lands are being converted to other land uses, threatening the security and safety of local food system.

Moses Lake Conservation District

State Legislative District #13
Congressional District #4, 5

Other Accomplishments

Mainline Project

Dairy Solid Waste Transfer Improvements

Development of Dairy Odor Control Plan

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Moses Lake Dairy Improves Waste Handling System

This project was put on the fast track and got completed just in time to plant silage corn.

Resource Challenge – Making sure liquid dairy waste is stored, transferred and applied onto the land in a manner that is beneficial for the environment, best for the crop, and economical for the producer.

Project Summary and Results –

Working on a wish list that seems like a mile long, Moses Lake dairyman James Voss regularly completes project after project. Since approval of his Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) he has worked hard to implement many Best Management Practice (BMPs) that will assure resource conservation and profitability while making his farm more efficient.

Over the years he has poured and finished hundreds of yards of concrete, installed an excavated storage lagoon which is lined and has a capacity of more than 1.1 million gallons net. Installed a drum-type manure separator, followed irrigation water and nutrient management techniques. He has most recently installed 850′ of 10″ buried main line from the lagoon to his pivots for precise manure applications and time savings at the time of year when days are still short and there is a lot to do on a dairy.

After the long, cool spring like the one experienced in the Columbia Basin in early 2011 no one can fault farmers for being anxious about getting everything ready for planting. This can be especially true for dairymen if they have large amounts of liquid manure to apply onto crop fields before they can plant.

With technical assistance from the Moses Lake Conservation District (MLCD) and financial assistance in the form of cost share from the Washington Conservation Commission (WCC) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Mr. Voss is steadily improving the small dairy he purchased a few years ago.

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Rex Chamberlain, Member
Rhonda Ross, Member

More Work To Do

- Offer farmers cost share for conservation projects
- Offer cost share to livestock producers to complete BMP projects
- Work with farmers and DOE on processing burn permits
- Work with BPA and Grant PUD on energy efficiencies program
- Continue to work with producers improving wildlife habitat
- Work on revising 4 nutrient management plans for livestock producers
- Develop new NMPs as needed

North Yakima Conservation District

State Legislative District #13, 14, 15
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Cowychee Ditch Fish Screen – install

Bio-engineering on Wenas Creek

Van Wyk property, 4600 acre proposed Farmland Preservation Program Conservation Easement

2011 Feature Accomplishment

North Fork Ahtanum Creek Fish Passage Project

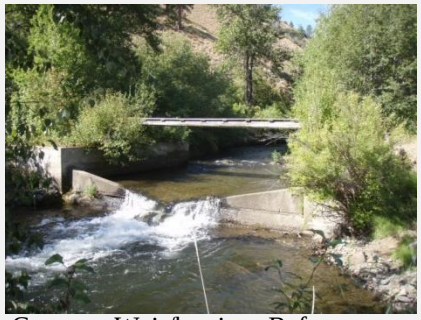
This project brought together the landowner and local stakeholders to correct a full spanning fish passage barrier on the North Fork of Ahtanum Creek. The barrier consisted of a large concrete weir that was built in the 1930's by USGS to measure water in the creek. Besides creating a fish passage barrier in a high priority stream utilized by bull trout, steelhead, and salmon, the weir had degraded, making it structurally unsound and inaccurate in measuring flow in the creek.

North Fork Ahtanum Creek Fish Passage Project

Construction of Roughened Channel

Project Summary and Results:
To provide passage, the concrete weir was removed and a "Roughened Channel" was constructed to create a smooth transition in stream gradient. Over 700 cubic yards of varying sized rock was brought in to reconstruct the streambed and over 30 ponderosa pine root wads where used to construct log cribs to provide streambank protection and habitat. The successful removal of the weir and implementation of the new Roughened Channel now provides year round passage for all species and ages of fish. New monitoring equipment has been installed and will allow for real time access to flow measurements in the North Fork Ahtanum Creek.

Key Project Partners:
Project partners include the landowner, USGS, Ahtanum Irrigation District, Yakama Nation, SRFB and Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program.



Concrete Weir/barrier - Before

Roughened Channel - After

Contact Information

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Board of Supervisors:
Gail Thornton, Chair
Arnold Swain, Vice-Chair
Dustin Melius, Auditor
Frank Hendrix, Member
George Cameron, Member

More Work To Do

The NYCD's resource priority is to develop programs that maintain agricultural and open space areas for the multitude of benefits they provide from economic stability and habitat to aesthetics and sense of community.

NYCD is developing long-term programs and partnerships to address the threat of wildfire throughout the District, from its rangeland areas to its forested lands.

Okanogan Conservation District

State Legislative District #7, 12
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Acres Seeded - 12

Conservation Plans Developed - 10

Cultural Resources - 4

Education – People Reached - 3,410

Fencing Installed – 9,419'

Irrigation Pivots Installed - 3

Newsletters Sent – 6,800

Pipe Installed – 20,521'

Plants Distributed – 13,437

Plants Planted – 9,138

Pumps Installed - 2

Riparian Restoration - 5

Spring Developments - 1

Solar Pump Systems Installed - 1

Stream Gauging – 50 samples

Technical Assistance - 28

Troughs - 9

Wells - 1

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Cerritos Farm

Resource Challenge –

This farm was home to a diversified herd of livestock. Due to animal numbers, property size, and infrastructure many resource challenges existed: vegetative cover, available stock water, overgrazing, and runoff flowing into the river. The property is adjacent to the Methow River and had a streambank which was depleted of vegetation due to animal access to the river.

Cerritos
Before Project

Cerritos
After first year of implementation

Project Summary and Results -

A pasture seeding and a riparian forest buffer were implemented to control soil erosion and runoff from overgrazed pastures and the riparian area. Riparian fencing and cross fencing were installed to keep the livestock out of the river and to separate pastures for rotational grazing. Additional water sources were installed. This increased the quality and quantity of vegetation and ground cover on the pasture lands. It also allowed for the development of a rotational grazing program that improved the overall health of the property and its animals.

Staff Kelly Kolrud and Bob Clark with landowner Mardo Cerritos discussing the project.

Contact Information

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craign@okanogancd.org
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Board of Supervisors:
Ivan Oberg, Chair
Jerry Asmussen, Vice-Chair
Albert Roberts, Auditor
Wes Hover, Member
Lorah Super, Member

More Work To Do

Assist livestock operations in addressing resource issues.

Bring 115 irrigation withdrawals up to regulatory standards for "fish-friendly" screens.

Annually conduct educational events reaching 2,500+ students and 500+ adults.

Conduct on-farm energy audits and provide technical assistance to improve those energy efficiencies.

Implement action items of the Okanogan Watershed Plan.

Pacific Conservation District

State Legislative District #19
Congressional District #3

Other Accomplishments

Falkner–Custer Creek FFFPP

Before Construction - 2011

After Construction - 2011

The PCD sponsored the Falkner - Custer Creek - FFFPP project in partnership with the USF&W Service.

This partnership removed a fish passage barrier and replaced the fish blockage with a 14′ x 60′ Steel modular bridge. The blockage eliminated natural salmon migration on Custer Creek. This project will access to 7.47 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Soules Creek – Huber FFFPP/CCPI Partnership - Project

The PCD sponsored the Soules- Creek – Huber FFFPP project in partnership with NRCS and the CCPI program. This partnership replaced a 48″ barrier culvert that blocked salmon migration on Soules Creek. The PCD replaced the barrier with a 14′ x 40′ Bridge. This partnership has extended the FFFPP funds by bringing in federal dollars to assist small forest landowners and address resource concerns. This is a win – win for people and the environment.

PCD working with landowner's

Summary and Results

This partnership identified, assessed and replaced a 48″ barrier culvert that blocked salmon migration on Soules creek. The PCD in partnership with FFFPP, NRCS and the CCPI program replaced the barrier with a 14′ x 40′ Bridge. Designs were created to meet NRCS specifications and the project was put out to bid in two phases. The first phase consisted of running a bid process to acquire an AISC certified bridge. The PCD then completed the second phase by running a bid process to acquire a contractor to install the bridge to NRCS design specifications. This project opened .5 miles of arguably the highest quality spawning habitat in the Willapa Watershed.

Before Construction - 2011

After construction - 2011

Project Partners – Landowner, PCD, NRCS, FFFPP, RCO, WADNR, WDFW, Becker Engineering, Big"R" Bridge Co. and NDC Timber Co.

Contact Information

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Board of Supervisors:
Mark Ashley, Chair
Kevin Hatton, Vice-Chair
Victor Niemcziek, Treasurer
Doug Crawford, Member
Board Position Open, Member

More Work To Do

- Wright FFFPP Project / CCPI.
- Montgomery FFFPP Project / CCPI
- Naselle Knotweed Control
- North River Knotweed Control
- Willapa Knotweed Control
- Small Farm Plan Implementation
- Rue Creek Culvert Project
- West Rue Creek Culvert Project
- Cranberry BMP Implementation
- CREP Program Implementation
- Small Forest Landowner Plans
- Small Forest BMP Implementation
- NRCS –CCPI /FFFPP Grant
- MRC Process
- Lead Entity Process
- WCSSP Board
- WCSSP Planning Team
- WCSSP TRT

Palouse Conservation District

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

- 401 Volunteers worked 1286 hours
- Garfield-Palouse School District took 2nd in WA Envirothon

- 8.4 miles of riparian buffers totaling 62.4 acres
- 33,750 plants planted
- Weed control on 191 acres
- Pollinator and prairie habitat restoration with USFWS

- Stream Trailer demos
- Sunnyside Elementary Outdoor Classroom

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Palouse Direct Seed Incentive & Education Program

Resource Challenge

The wind-deposited soils of the Palouse region have some of the highest erosion rates in the world. Winter snowfall and spring rains bring precipitation just when conventional tillage practices leave fields barren and vulnerable. The resulting soil loss can have negative effects on local water and soil quality. Direct seeding, or no till farming, can save up to eight tons of soil per acre; however, switching over can be an expensive and intimidating.

Direct seeded wheat. Crop residue between rows prevents erosion throughout the year.

Project Summary and Results

This project is aimed at improving water and soil quality through increased adoption of direct seed/no till agriculture techniques on the Palouse. With funding from the Washington Department of Ecology and WSCC, PCD offers producers $25/acre during the first three years of their transition to direct seeding. The funds can be used to offset the cost of custom seeding, equipment purchases or other expenses related to direct seeding. In addition, PCD performs soil quality testing for four years after enrollment. The data collected will be used to illustrate the increase in soil health that is expected from this type of farming. A network of experienced no tillers, including PCD board members, are available to program participants. Their mentorship greatly reduces the stress of the conversion to direct seed methods. In 2011, eight producers each enrolled the maximum 200 acres into the program.

Key Project Partners

USDA-NRCS, Washington State University, Washington State Conservation Commission, Washington Department of Ecology, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, Spokane County Conservation District

Contact Information

Mary Rosen, District Manager
1300 NE Henley Court
Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 332-4101

Board of Supervisors:
Larry Cochran, Chair
Chris Heitstuman, Vice-Chair
Keith Kopf, Auditor
Mark Whitmore, Member
Joan Folwell, Member

PCD Total Acreage 368,519
Cropland 310,519 acres
Rangeland 45,400 acres
Woodland 2,970
POPULATION:
District Ag. Cooperators 728
Small Rural Landowners 5,000
City of Pullman 29,799/WSU 27,000
Colton 406, Union Town 355,
Garfield 610, Albion 582, Palouse 980

More Work To Do

North & South Fork Palouse River TMDL Implementation: Riparian buffers and livestock fencing along 275 miles of perennial streams. Ongoing water quality monitoring.

Palouse Prairie Mapping: Finish remnant survey in cooperation with USFWS & WDFG.

Direct Seed Program: Increase enrollment and continue monitoring.

Palouse Stream Trailer: Perform programs in all PCD school districts to supplement existing curriculum.

Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation District

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Frost Free Nose Pump-This year round pump does not require any outside source of power.

Direct Seed Outreach and Cost Share programs decrease soil erosion, improve water and air quality, provide wildlife habitat while maintaining grain yields.

Future Conservation Innovations

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Palouse River Livestock Riparian Project.

Resource Challenge –

The Gaiser family had ranched on the Palouse River since the early 1900's and wanted the river to be rehabilitated and restored to a similar condition as in the early 1930's. A combination Best Management Practices were used to improve the riparian vegetation while continuing to utilize the ranch as an active livestock operation.

Palouse River 1930-32 from the Gaiser front window

Project Summary and Results

The Palouse Rock Lake Conservation District worked with the Gaiser family tenant and private industry to install 27,000 feet of riparian fence and planted over 22,000 trees and shrubs that were adapted to this area to stabilize the river banks and to assist in cooling the water to meet Clean Water Standards. The project included five off site water systems that meet NRCS specifications while satisfying the cooperators needs. The primary resource concern, water quality will be improved while at the same time continuing a viable livestock operation. The Gaiser family is also protecting the river for their future generations.

Present Day Palouse River looking from the same location

Key Project Partners –

Washington Conservation Commission Livestock Grant, Farm Service Agency, Department of Ecology, Washington Conservation Corps Natural Resource Conservation Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Installing Landscape Fabric and planting trees with the Department of Ecology Americorp Crews

Contact Information

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Board of Supervisors:
Tom Kucklick, Chair
Clinton O'Keefe, Vice-Chair
Clark Miller, Secretary
Tracy Eriksen, Treasurer
Jason Huntley, Member

More Work To Do

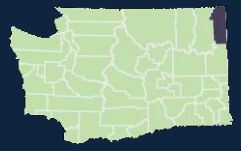
Protect and rehabilitate 10 miles of riparian area on streams, creeks, and rivers in 2012

Demonstrate variable rate fertilizer and seed rates using direct seed technology to increase conservation acreage and farm profitability

Increase adaption of Direct Seed in lower rainfall areas using increased technology and lower disturbance equipment.

Provide additional outreach education opportunities to local schools and cooperators.

Pend Oreille Conservation District



State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Culvert removal project

Road abandonment project

Restored channel and streambank

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Resource Challenge -
For the first time in a long time Pend Oreille Conservation District has a full Board of Supervisors. Ralph Christiansen, retired NRCS employee has stepped up to the responsibility of Chair person. Ralph was appointed to a vacant position and Terry Holloway replaced outgoing Supervisor Glen Lockwood. Terry works for a neighboring conservation district as a resource technician. Michele Masuen, a local land owner and business woman was appointed by the Commission in August to round out the Board. As a business owner Michele brings with her experience in money management and bookkeeping.

Project Summary and Results -
The Pend Oreille Conservation District is dedicated to protecting, enhancing, conserving and restoring natural resources by assisting land owners/managers with conservation practices. POCD is committed to landowners and is working diligently to strengthen our public presence by developing communication channels, broadening community involvement, expanding educational opportunities, and searching for ways to provide research and technical assistance to our constituents.

Key Project Partners –
WA State Department of Ecology
WSU/Pend Oreille County Extension
Recreation and Conservation Office
Natural Resource Conservation Service
USDA Forest Service
WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Pend Oreille County
WA State Department of Natural Resources
Pend Oreille Public Utility District
Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Contact Information

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Board of Supervisors:
Ralph Christiansen, Chair
George Stuivenga, Vice-Chair
Randy Leestma, Treasurer
Michele Masuen, Member
Terry Holloway, Member

More Work To Do

Resource planning

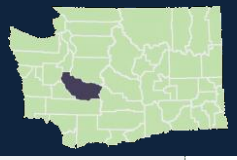
Establish additional partnerships to further the Districts mission.

Secure Funding for installation of Best Management Practices to improve water quality in Pend Oreille County.

Seek opportunities for funding to reduce aquatic invasive species and educate the public on the damage these cause.

Establish an education and outreach program for the youth in our community.

Pierce Conservation District



State Legislative District #2, 25-31
Congressional District #6, 8, 9

Other Accomplishments

Greiwe-Kelley Heavy Use Area

Featherman Poultry Processing Equipment for rent to local producers

Bee Spit Honey Riparian Planting

Well-monitoring project

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Rain Garden Program

Like all Districts that surround Puget Sound, Pierce is looking at ways to help landowners understand, manage, and minimize polluted stormwater run-off. And while the District's farm program continues to provide valuable assistance to small farms with best management practices for mud and manure, Stream Team is working with local municipalities and other partnerships to promote, educate, and help implement rain gardens in urban and suburban settings.

Example of a rain garden installed in a residential neighborhood in Puyallup, September 2010.

Since 2009, Stream Team has helped the City of Puyallup install clusters of 5-8 neighborhood rain gardens to reduce the amount of and improve the quality of stormwater run-off. By leveraging Department of Ecology grant funds and successful partnerships like the one with the District, the City has installed 28 rain gardens in four neighborhoods between June 2009 and June 2011.

Stream Team's role in the rain garden program has evolved to that of primary public educator, initial landowner contact, and event co-coordinator. Stream Team conducts one-on-one site visits with interested homeowners to assess soil filtration rates and suitability of the site for a rain garden. During the site visit, Stream Team explains the rain garden concept as well as the City's program. Neighbors are encouraged to work together to find the cluster of willing participants, thus strengthening the public-private partnership.

When the rain gardens are constructed, Stream Team coordinates many of the project logistics, including volunteers, planting, mulching, and stormdrain marking. With two of the projects, Stream Team has also helped lead a school field day centered around rain gardens, stormwater, salmon, and native plant education.

Key partners in this project have included the City of Puyallup, Department of Ecology, Stewardship Partners, Rain Dog Designs, Droll Associates, and many others.

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www.piercecountycd.org

Board of Supervisors:
Jeanette Dorner, Chair
Dave Seago, Vice-Chair, Auditor
Ernie Bay, Member
David Batker, Member
Vacant, Member

More Work To Do

Re-authorize assessment funding under RCW 89.08.400

Continue progress on knotweed eradication projects

Continue to support local agriculture through District programs and partnerships

Continue to implement programs to restore vital riparian habitat along salmon-bearing streams

Continue to educate public on important natural resource issues

Continue to support the Green Partnership program

Pine Creek Conservation District

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Filter strip along Pine Creek

Landowner meeting

Once a pasture along Spring Creek, is now developing into nice riparian habitat

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Partnerships.

Resource Challenge –
Providing quality natural resource enhancement services is a goal of the district board. Limited funding and a small staff present a challenge. Expanding existing partnerships and creating new ones create a wider pool of knowledge, skills and contacts. More creative solutions are developed and resources can be focused on specific problems. Partnerships are also cost effective as each partner can specialize in certain aspects of program delivery.

Harvesting productive direct seeded acres

Project Summary and Results –
Our newest and most exciting partnership expansion is with neighbor, Palouse-Rock Lake CD. Together, both districts applied for and received Ecology funding to promote direct seed on highly erodible land, to enhance riparian areas and to monitor water quality. Work on this project is just starting.

A new partnership was developed with Inland Power & Light and BPA. The district started an energy efficiency program and is performing energy audits in Spokane County, parts of Whitman County and was recently asked to cover Kootenai County in Idaho.

An old partnership expanded, is with NRCS. Via the TSP program, the district completed 216 conservation plans and several field evaluations. The joint effort resulted in reduction of workload for NRCS, increased funding to the district and accelerated conservation delivered on the ground.

Another partnership is with Ecology's Ag Burn team. Together we are working to meter burning and reduce ag burning long term. The district also provides expanded services in the burn permit application process.

Key Project Partners –
PRLCD, Dept. of Ecology, Inland Power & Light, BPA, NRCS, Big Bend RC&D, Lincoln County CD, Spokane County CD, Kootenai County and WA State Conservation Commission.

Contact Information

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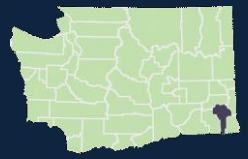
Board of Supervisors:
Tom Henning, Chair
Joe St. John, Vice-Chair
David Gumm, Secretary/Treasurer
James Fletcher, Member
Ron Kile, Member

More Work To Do

- Expansion of partnerships to include education delivery to three local schools
- Improvement in the district's water quality by increasing the direct seeded acres, grass buffer acres and filter strip acres.
- Research and demonstrations of direct seeding in high-rainfall, high residue areas.
- Expansion of the district's new cost share program.
- Offering GIS/GPS services to new partners.

Pomeroy Conservation District



State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Shelter Belt with trees and shrubs planted on tarp

Shelter Belt established for adverse weather protection for livestock

Off-site watering facility implemented for improved livestock distribution on pastureland.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Continuing No-till Program

The Pomeroy Conservation District has worked for years to bring a viable and economical erosion control practice to the farmers in the district. The no-till seeding program has been a part of this practice for over 20 years. The changing price of chemicals has presented a challenge to the district to help farmers stay with their no-till seeding programs. The introduction of the weed-seeker spray technology last year has helped meet this challenge.

Project Summary and Results – The district's weed-seeker sprayer has operated for over a year. The data collected from last years use has shown a chemical reduction from 30 to 90% compared to a regular sprayer doing the same job at the same rate of chemical. The chemical reduction depends on the rate and the weed being addressed. Although the cost of the Roundup Herbicide and other chemicals used for chemical fallow has come down in price since the sprayer was introduced in 2010, the reduction of chemicals used has further reduced the chemical costs to the farmers. The Pomeroy Grain Growers has operated the sprayer on a custom spraying contract with the Pomeroy CD. This last year the district collected $3.00 on over 3,700 acres sprayed for any maintenance or modification needed. The maintenance costs were virtually nothing. The district believes that the reason for the low maintenance cost was the use of one operator using the same tractor and building the knowledge and experience of the intricacies of this equipment. A future modification of the sprayer using the funds collected may be for the installation of the auto-boom system that will further reduce the chemicals used. Several farmers have shown interest in purchasing their own weed-seeker technology to go along with auto steer systems currently being used.

Partners Involved -
Washington State Department of Ecology
Pomeroy Grain Growers Farm Division
Farmers of Garfield County

Contact Information

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Board of Supervisors:
Kyle Pearson, Chair
Richard Hastings, Vice-Chair
Paul Weimer, Auditor
John Dixon, Member
Lee Blachly, Member

More Work To Do

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife placed a fish-trap a mile from the mouth of the Pataha Creek. They collected 40 plus wild and hatchery Steelhead during the spring of 2011. With this documentation, the Pataha Creek has been moved into a higher category for funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The beginning of the preservation and restoring of salmon habitat within the Pataha Creek Watershed will begin with a HD low elevation aerial video being used to locate isolated fish barriers not located with previous surveys. Removing these barriers and allowing for further migration into the watershed will be a high priority over the next year.

San Juan Islands Conservation District

State Legislative District #40
Congressional District #2

Other Accomplishments

Developed ten farm and three Forest Plans, assisting landowners with best management practices to protect 504 acres.

Annual native plant sale in collaboration with WSU Master Gardener Foundation.

Offered a Holistic Management Workshop, Beach and Bluff Workshops on all three islands and a Nutrient Management Workshop for over 120 participants.

Continued membership in Puget Sound Conservation Districts, Stewardship Network and the Puget Sound Partnerships EcoNet to tackle the 2020 Action Agenda.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Replace Pt. Stanley Tide Gate on Lopez Island
San Juan County, Washington

Resource Challenge – The San Juan County Public Works Department requested assistance with a tide gate for the Port Stanley Lagoon. A self-regulating tide gate was installed in 2006 and had a broken lower bearing support due (apparently) to corrosion. The failed gate structure had been removed and replaced, temporarily, with a manually operated slide gate.

Project Summary and Results – Port Stanley Lagoon on Lopez Island is a remnant tidal pool, approximately 7 acres in size that is connected to Swifts Bay by way of a 30' canal containing a tide gate. The area surrounding the lagoon is shrub meadow and rural residential housing. The area of the Lagoon outfall channel is natural sand beach. The lagoon provides potential habitat for shorebirds and feeder fish.

The function of the tide gate is to maintain tidal hydrology by allowing seawater to fill and flush the lagoon. The project replaced the manually operated slide gate with a flap-type tide gate with a reverse-flow. This adapted tide gate operates similarly to the original self-regulating tide gate. However, the opening is sized to control the maximum fill elevation of the lagoon and to still allow for feeder fish migration. The effectiveness of the new tide gate to obtain the objectives will be monitored. This new design was developed by San Juan County Public Works Department and Ed Zapel of Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (hydraulics engineer and designer of self-regulating tide gates) and was overseen by Associate Conservation District Supervisor Jerry Rasmussen.

Key Project Partners
San Juan County Department of Public Works, Friday Harbor
Conservation District Associate Supervisor, Jerry Rasmussen
Washington State Department of Natural Resources, LaConnor and
Port Stanley Landowners, Lopez Island.

Contact Information

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info@sanjuanislandscd.org
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Board of Supervisors:
Pete Walmsley, Chair
Shannon Hoffman, Vice-Chair
Vicki Heater, Secretary
Stephen Belluomini, Treasurer
Henning Sehmsdorf, Member

More Work To Do

Work with San Juan County to complete fast-tracked EPA Managing Watersheds Grant by 2013.

Continue to complete "Early Warning" farm and forest plans to assist landowners currently in or applying for, agricultural open space and forestland tax designation.

Increase the protection of water resources through promotion of low impact development (LID) techniques for landowners.

Work with Friday Harbor High School *Dollars for Scholars* students to maintain demonstration rain garden on school property.

Skagit Conservation District

State Legislative District #39, 40, 10
Congressional District #2

Other Accomplishments

CREP
- 563.8 acres totaling 172,994 stream feet/32.8 miles of buffer and 248,255 trees planted to date
- 3 new contracts

Engineering
- 15 landowners/agencies received TA
- 3 BMPs implemented

Farm Planning
- 77 livestock owners received TA
- 22 plans written
- 25 BMPs implemented

Forestry and Firewise
- 25 forest plans totaling 2,822 acres written
- 5 hazard assessments completed
- 6 Firewise practices implemented
- 29 NRCS BMPs implemented

Public Outreach and Education
- 5,766+ hours reported by volunteers
- 1,016+ individuals participated in adult education courses and volunteer programs
- 2,544+ storm drains labeled and approximately 1,400 informational door hangers distributed by volunteers
- 1,800+ students participated in youth education programs
- 5 newsletters reaching 14,000 people distributed

Future watershed stewards

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Samish Watershed Improvements

Resource Challenge – Continued hard work by local landowners and a variety of State agencies, county governments, local tribes, non-governmental agencies and the Skagit Conservation District has proven effective in decreasing the levels of fecal coliform bacteria entering Samish Bay from the Samish River and its tributaries.

Fence and solar pump installation on Friday Creek, Samish Watershed

However, bacteria levels still do not meet state water quality standards and the shellfish beds are still periodically closed because of elevated bacteria counts, so more work is still needed and will continue to take place.

Project Summary and Results – From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 the SCD provided the following in the Samish Watershed:

- Technical assistance to 49 livestock owners
- 12 farm plans completed
- 17 landowners installed 18 structural BMPs
- 9 targeted workshops on BMPs reaching 180+ landowners
- Formation of the Friday Creek Habitat Stewards group
- Educational displays at numerous events

By providing technical assistance and education, SCD helps landowners do their part in protecting and improving the health of the Samish Watershed. Cost-share opportunities offered by SCD allow landowners to implement BMPs such as fencing livestock out of waterways, managing mud and manure, and improving riparian areas. SCD will continue to be at the forefront of protecting the health of the Samish Watershed – one landowner at a time.

Key Project Partners – Skagit County, WA State Dept. of Ecology, Samish Bay Shellfish Growers, Samish Indian Nation, WA State Dept. of Health, WA State Dept. of Ag, EPA, WA State Conservation Commission, Skagit Conservation Education Alliance, Western WA Ag Assoc., WA State Dairy Federation, WA State Cattleman's Assoc., Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Contact Information

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2021 E. College Way, Suite 203
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
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skagitcd@skagitcd.org

Board of Supervisors:
Janet McRae, Chair
Paul Blau, Vice-Chair
Wendy Pare, Auditor
Thijs Jacobson, Member
Dean Wesen, Member

More Work To Do

Maintaining a productive working land base is of paramount importance to the SCD. Conversion of our resource lands to other uses is a detriment to sustainable agricultural and forestry production, and the fish and wildlife habitats that these lands provide. SCD will continue to work cooperatively on solutions relating to land use changes in our natural resource zones and the wildland/urban interface.

The health of our watersheds, and the people, fish and wildlife that reside there is dependent on clean water. We will continue to work with local residents - rural and urban - to protect and improve our water quality for the benefit of all.

Snohomish Conservation District

State Legislative District #1, 10, 21, 32, 38, 39 & 44
Congressional District #1 & 2

Other Accomplishments

Site Visits	**300**
Farm Plans/TA letters	**67**
Brush Management	**36 ac**
Compost Facility	**6**
Cover Crop	**10 ac**
DNMP Approved	**1,716 ac**
DNMP Completed	**1,589 ac**
Drainage Mgmt.	**105 ac**
Fencing	**1,700 ac**
Filter Strips	**565 ft**
Forest Site Prep.	**15 ac**
Forest Stand Imprvmt	**25 ac**
Heavy Use Area	**8 ac**
Nutrient Mgmt.	**139 ac**
Pasture/Hayland Pltng	**11 ac**
Pest Management	**4 ac**
Prescribed Grazing	**59 ac**
Education/Outreach	**920**
Riparian Forest Buffer	**16 ac**
Roof Runoff	**9**
Soil Test	**56**
Subsurface Drain	**1,500 ft**
Surface Water Mgmt.	**38**
Tree/Shrubs Establish	**43 ac**
Use Exclusion	**3 ac**
Waste Storage Facility	**3**
Waste Utilization	**9 ac**
Wastewater Treat.	**5 ac**
Watering Facility	**2**

Host- 2011 State Envirothon

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Bjorn Creek CREP Project

Resource Challenge

Invasive species and inadequate riparian shading are common and widespread resource issues within the Snohomish Conservation District.
Lack of adequate tree cover results in higher summer water temperatures, which negatively impact juvenile salmonid survival. Bjorn Creek was bordered mostly by reed canary grass and non-native blackberry, and very few trees and shrubs.

4600 trees and shrubs were planted in this CREP buffer

Project Summary and Results

In the Fall of 2010 and Winter of 2011, the Snohomish Conservation District worked with a landowner along a tributary to Fish Creek in the Stillaguamish River Basin to enhance the streamside buffer for rearing juvenile salmonids.

The landowner, with help from the Stillaguamish Tribe's Riparian Crew, mowed and planted 10.4 acres of riparian buffer. The buffer extends 180 feet beyond the creek's edge along 2,500 feet of Bjorn Creek. Over the span of 5 months, 4,600 native trees and shrubs were planted.

The landowner's next challenge is to keep the reed canary grass from overtopping the plantings. He will receive continued assistance from the District with his maintenance plan.

Funding for implementation was obtained through the Farm Service Agency's CREP program and WA Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund TMDL Improvement grant.

Key Project Partners

David and Melinda Gladstone Foundation, Stillaguamish Tribe, USDA Farm Service Agency, WA Department of Ecology Centennial Clean Water Fund, and WA Conservation Commission

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Karl Hereth, Treasurer
Steve Van Valkenburg, Auditor
Jeff Ellingsen, Member

More Work To Do

- The District has been actively involved with efforts to balance the resource needs associated with fish habitat and agriculture production via the Sustainable Lands Strategy. This has provided an opportunity to develop and expand partnership opportunities to address a wide variety of resource concerns.
- The District continues to work with partners to address and implement NPDES and TMDL requirements.
- The District needs to continue to leverage funds and work with partners to install on-the-ground projects.

South Douglas Conservation District

State Legislative District #12
Congressional District #14

Other Accomplishments

Terraces planted to grass

New windbreak for young family

Checking new sediment dam.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Improving Water Quality

Resource Challenge –
Protecting water quality by reducing erosion and runoff is a continuing challenge in South Douglas. Near drought conditions exacerbate the problem and also influences air quality. Reducing the amount of tillage operations by providing no/low till equipment for rent to our cooperators decreases the potential amount of air borne soil. Cost Share funding that allows farmers to determine the amount of fertilizer needed not only reduces costs but also prevents the excess fertilizer from entering the water sources.

Project Summary and Results –
By providing cost share to 27 farmers, 27,380 acres were protected. This included not only assistance with soil testing (22,000 acres) but also building of terraces and dams to hold back water and prevent erosion (5,300 acres). Two windbreaks (80 acres) were established to decrease wind erosion and provide protection to farmsteads and livestock. In addition 1,400 acres were farmed by 7 producers, using the District's no/low till equipment, further reducing erosion and improving air and water quality while improving soil productivity.

Education and outreach are key factors in protecting our resources. As the District becomes more urban than rural, it is important to promote conservation to all citizens. These projects include:

- Annual Tree and Shrub Sale (1,000 plants to 50+ buyers)
- Support of Cascadia CD Kids in the Creek (150 students)
- Support of Waterville School's Douglas Creek Monitoring Task (30)

Key Project Partners –
Washington State Conservation Commission funded most of cost share projects. In cooperation with NRCS, Foster Creek CD, Cascadia CD and area farmers, South Douglas is able to use most of our funding for on the ground projects and minimal for administration.

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Eddie Greer, Auditor
Terry Besel, Member
Jeff Rock, Member

More Work To Do

- Increase outreach and education to landowners.
- Provide assistance to farmers to implement Best Management Practices within CRP program.
- Upgrade irrigation systems.
- Encourage new conservation and water quality practices.
- Improve wildlife habitat and develop Firewise Program.

South Yakima Conservation District

State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #4

Other Accomplishments

Conservation tillage will maintain or improve soil productivity. It reduces erosion, optimizes soil moisture, increases organic matter, and improves water quality by keeping topsoil and nutrients out of creeks, streams and lakes. **33 producers** used the inter-seed drill to direct seed **335 acres**.

In partnership with Benton and Franklin Conservation Districts the Salmon in the Classroom, Wheat Weeks, and Water on Wheels educational programs reached over **1,000** students. Numerous teachers and volunteers also participated.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Dairy Farm Energy Efficiency Pilot Program Kicks Off

Parallel Milking Parlor

Resource Challenge

Agricultural producers/dairy farms today face challenges fueled by rapidly rising energy costs and concerns about environmental impacts. Dairy farms use more energy than almost any other agricultural operation.

The Dairy Farm Energy Efficiency Pilot Program is being offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP Energy Initiative to dairy facilities in Yakima and Thurston Counties and focuses on energy used by dairy facilities.

Project Summary and Results

A new farm energy assessment tool was developed by Washington State University's Extension Energy Program to help evaluate energy conservation options and identify potential energy savings to agricultural producers who then can conserve energy and save money by implementing energy efficient equipment.

In Yakima County, South Yakima Conservation District is assisting WSU conduct energy assessments on 20 dairy "headquarters." The extensive on-farm energy assessment collects and analyzes information on farm energy consumption and its associated costs for milk harvesting, milk chilling, water use, compressed air, lighting, pumping, and ventilation.

Once all the data is collected, a Farm Energy Report is developed for the dairy facility summarizing the existing systems & operations, energy efficiency alternatives, energy and financial analysis, recommendations, and available incentives and resources.

Key Project Partners – USDA NRCS and Rural Development, WSU Extension Energy Program, Conservation Commission, WACD, WSDOA, WA Dairy Federation, state agricultural associations, and participating utilities.

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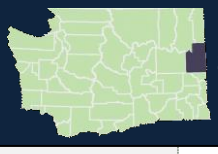
Jim Newhouse, Vice-Chair
Vacant, Auditor
Jon Nishi, Member
Steve Bangs, Member

More Work To Do

- Work with growers to develop Global GAP plans to meet required standards.
- Continue to work with locals, state, and federal agencies to implement solutions to reduce the groundwater contamination in the Lower Yakima Valley.
- Seek additional funding for technical and financial assistance to help implement BMP's that will improve water quality.
- Continue to work with local dairies and livestock facilities to ensure all local, state and federal regulations are met.

Spokane Conservation District



State Legislative District #3, 4, 6, 7, 9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

SCD began operating its soil testing lab in April 2011, and to date has processed more than 50 basic soil tests.

Soil testing in progress

The new marketing platform for SCD began with a subtle name change, and a new logo and web site. Communications now include a Facebook page, blog, radio ads and a column in a local publication, *The Exchange.*

SCD performed a park tree inventory for the City of Cheney and a street tree inventory for the Town of Millwood. GIS software, Tree Works, was used to collect the data. By using the information collected, the two communities can proactively manage their urban trees.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Groundwater Monitoring Project

Resource Challenge

In 2010 the Spokane Conservation District initiated a groundwater monitoring project in the Hangman Creek watershed. The main objective of the project was to determine how much of the groundwater in the watershed could be sustainably developed. The wells will continue to be monitored for groundwater changes on a long-term basis.

SCD staff Rick Noll and Dan Ross taking a measurement from a groundwater well

Project Summary and Results

Funded by the Department of Ecology's Watershed Planning Program, the project consisted of drilling seven wells throughout the Hangman Creek watershed; the wells were monitored and the data collected was used to create a model of the aquifers. The aquifers in the watershed are generally limited in their size. The main aquifers are at the top and bottom of the basalt flows found throughout the area.

The water sampled from the aquifer was evaluated to determine its age, and most of the water that is supplied to the majority of homes and municipalities in the area ranged in age from over 1,000 years old to just under 17,000 years old.

The recharge characteristics of the water sampled in the Hangman Creek watershed suggests that the groundwater in that area is a limited resource, which should be taken into consideration in planning for development. The final results of the groundwater monitoring project were presented in May at the National Groundwater Association Conference in Maryland.

Key Project Partners

- Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- Northwest Land and Water
- Spokane County
- WRIA 56 Watershed Implementation Team

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Randy James, Vice-Chair
Jaki Shrauger, Auditor
Mary Sullivan, Member
Tom Miller, Member

More Work to Do

SCD is expanding its Small Acreage Program and creating a network of resources for small scale producers. The second annual Small Farms Conference will be held in October 2012.

SCD is working with partnering agencies to promote the Smithsonian exhibit, *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*, coming to Spokane in February 2012.

SCD, the Pacific NW Direct Seed Association, and Ecology are working towards a Direct Seed Certification Program to brand the products of no-till operations in participating districts as using sustainable practices with minimal environmental impact.

Stevens County Conservation District

State Legislative District #7
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Youth Education

Land Judging Contest, 14 Schools 310 contestants

Forestry Contests Local, 4 Schools 60 Contestants, State 11 Schools, 80 Contestants

Sixth Grade Conservation Tour, 6 Schools, 262 Participants

Sensational Saturday, Clayton Farm Days, County Activity Day, Working in the Classrooms

2011 Feature Accomplishment

WRIA 59 Stream Gauging

Resource Challenge – Colville watershed has been a closed basin for new water rights since 1972. The WRIA 59 watershed planning group has been working for over 12 years to re-open the basin and acquire local management of the resource.

Project Summary – SCCD is managing and maintaining a network of 19 pressure sensor/recorder gauges on the main-stem and tributaries of the Colville River. Most of the gauges have been in operation for over 3 years. 2011 the district received funding to upgrade 75% of the sites. 2010-2011 local cities and PUD provided the funding for the maintenance. Stevens County provided the funding for the purchase of data management software.

Project Results – Data from the gauging stations will provide accurate and time specific data. This will help set realistic stream flows and be a tool for management of flows and water usage for agriculture, industry and the population.

Key Project Partners – Stevens County, Stevens County PUD, City of Chewelah, Colville, and Kettle Falls, Washington State Department of Ecology, US Forest Service.

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Andy Kroiss, Chair
Tom McKern, Vice-Chair
Connie Bergstrom, Treasurer
Pete Guglielmino, Member
June Gordon, Member

Associate Supervisors
We have 13 individuals who help with special projects, contests and events and give the district direction.

More Work To Do

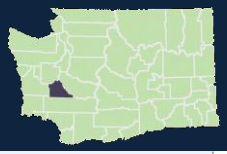
Resource planning

Tough economic times place greater demand on the resources

Helping landowners to understand how resource cycles work

Promote long term sustainability of Natural Resources

Thurston Conservation District



State Legislative District #2, 20, 22, 35
Congressional District #3, 9

Other Accomplishments

Peterson FFFPP Project

Before

After:

- ~ Partnered with Thurston Co. Stream Team to install just over 10,000 native plants along 6 streams on 11 sites.
- ~ Installed 276 Best Management Practices throughout the county.
- ~ Completed 4 Dairy Nutrient Management Plans and 15 Conservation Plans.
- ~ Provided Technical Assistance to 638 landowners on a variety of subjects including: low impact development, invasive species control.
- ~ Completed Task Order work through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- ~ Utilized 78 volunteers over the course of the year.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Mycofiltration Project - Oyster Bay Farm

Mycoberm contours, Burns Ck.

Resource Challenge – For years, activities on this farm, exacerbated by the sheet flow from the forest above the farm, were significantly affecting water quality in Burns and Pierre Creeks and Burns Cove. Water quality issues included bank instability and high levels of fine sediments and fecal coliform.

Project Summary and Results – There were three phases of this two-year project: First, agricultural ditch re-channelization; second, fencing and preparation of mycoberms; and lastly, installation of the mycoberms. The installation of a 3,400 foot inceptor drainage system (rechanneling) and 3,018 feet of riparian fencing and in the first year helped to reduce water quality issues. In the second year, 1,339 mycofilter bags were prepared by staff from Fungi Perfecti and a Cedar Creek Corrections Crew. Preparation involved using untreated burlap bags filled with woodchips and inoculating them with mycelium (mushroom fungus). After the bags were refrigerated for "curing" and timing was right, a Washington Conservation Corps crew was utilized to install the bags along Burns and Pierre Creeks within the confines of the farm. The rechanneling project significantly reduced inputs of fine sediments and visual sheet runoff.

The mycofilter contours significantly reduced the inputs of fecal coliform bacteria in Burns and Pierre Creeks, once further action was taken to reduce the raccoon "parties" that were occurring on the lower part of the farm. Further water quality monitoring and trials are needed to determine the longer term results. We hope to secure funding to install these mycofilter systems on other sites where other methods have failed to improve water quality.

Key Project Partners – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Fungi Perfecti, Mason Conservation District, District Cluster Engineer, RG Forestry Consulting, Mason County Public Works, Cedar Creek Corrections, and Washington Conservation Corps.

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Fred Colvin, Treasurer
Vivian Chambers, Member
David Hall, Member
Dan Cathers, Member

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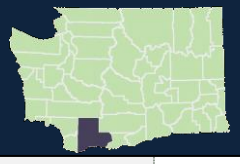
More Work To Do

- * Secure funding to provide continued CREP contracts (maintenance) and new contracts.
- * Secure funding to implement livestock projects currently on the waiting list.
- * The number of regulatory referrals continues to rise steadily. Adequate state and county funding is desperately needed to address these.
- * Continue to expand partnerships to put more conservation on the ground.

Underwood Conservation District



State Legislative District #15
Congressional District #3, 4

Other Accomplishments

- Sold over 20,600 native trees and shrubs in the annual UCD Plant Sale.
- Distributed over 2,300 trees on Washington Arbor Day.
- Reached nearly 1384 citizens through education/outreach.
- Assisted nearly 40 landowners and land managers with natural resource issues, including livestock management, forest health, and water quality issues via one-on-one site visits and consultations.
- Funded 11 landowners' Conservation Cost-Share projects, with over $11,445 in funding from the WA State Conservation Commission Implementation Grant.
- Conducted Wildfire Hazard Home Assessments for 91 Skamania County residents.
- Provided technical and financial assistance with the completion of 25 Firewise defensible space projects, resulting in the treatment of 37 acres of fuels in the wildland urban interface.
- In summer 2010, constructed 4 instream rock riffles and one log debris jam, followed with riparian planting in Castle Springs, a tributary to Rattlesnake Ck. and the White Salmon River. This project's purpose was similar to the Simmons Ck. Project.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Simmons Creek Restoration Project

Resource Challenge – Simmons Creek is a small tributary to Snyder Creek, which leads into the Klickitat River. The upper reaches of Simmons Creek are located on a flat plateau, and are moderately to deeply incised, probably due to historic agricultural clearing, ditching, and intensive grazing. Erosion and downcutting occur during high flows, as water is unable to spread onto the floodplain. Rapid runoff and erosion results in poor groundwater recharge. This exacerbates low, warm summer flows and sedimentation in the downstream reaches of Snyder Creek, which contains spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed Mid-Columbia steelhead.

Small log structure in foreground, and livestock crossing in background, Simmons Creek, April 2011

Project Summary and Results – The goals of this project were to use wood, vegetation, and small rock to add channel roughness, stabilize eroding banks and channel grade, increase groundwater recharge, reduce downstream sedimentation, and increase summer flows in downstream salmonid habitat. The project reach had been previously fenced by other entities to exclude livestock and protect the stream from cattle impacts. UCD and district cluster engineer staff planned and designed the project and acquired necessary permits. In the summers of 2009 and 2010, DNR WCC crews and private contractors built 17 small log structures, 3 large log structures, and two hardened livestock crossings within a 4,000 foot long reach of the Simmons Creek channel. Additionally, approximately 5,500 native conifers and livestakes were purchased or collected from local sources and planted throughout the project area. The land manager and cooperator for this project is Hancock Forest Management.

Other partners on the project include rancher/lessee John Stephens, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, Central/Eastern Klickitat Conservation District, Appleton Fire Department, Yakama Nation Fisheries, Washington Cattlemen's Association, Washington Water Trust, Washington Trout Unlimited, Washington Dept. of Ecology, WA Dept. of Natural Resources, and Klickitat County Natural Resources Dept. Funding for this project came from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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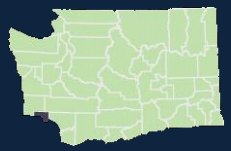
Joyce Eastwick, Auditor
Paul Newell, Member
Kelly Clothier, Member

More Work To Do

- Assist with livestock water quality project implementation on Gilmer Creek, and other water quality improvements on the White Salmon River.
- Complete permitting, design and construction of Little Wind River Community Habitat Restoration Project.
- Complete fish passage barrier correction projects at Indian Creek, Buck Creek, Cannavina, and Whisky Creek sites.
- Complete fish passage surveys in the Wind River watershed.
- Pursue funding for Trout Lake Irrigation Efficiency Project.
- Pursue funding to sustain a district-wide Firewise Program.

Wahkiakum Conservation District



State Legislative District #19
Congressional District #3

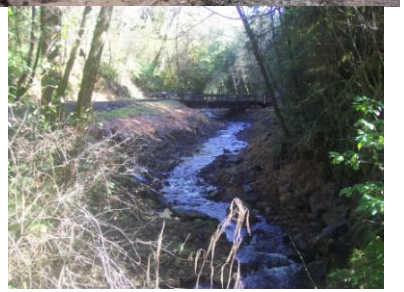
Other Accomplishments

Middle Valley Skamokawa Projects

Skamokawa site prep for planting

Fence and Riparian Planting

Elochoman River Fish Passage



2011 Feature Accomplishment

Community Watershed Projects

Flooding and associated property damage, water quality, salmon recovery, and invasive weeds are shared concerns amongst landowners in the Skamokawa Creek and Elochoman River Watersheds. These resource concerns do not recognize property boundaries and are best addressed at a watershed scale. The principles of Coordinated Resource Management are being employed to continue assisting the Skamokawa Community and to initiate a project in the Elochoman River watershed.

Falk Creek in Middle Valley Skamokawa – Debris jam deflectors

Skamokawa Community Watershed: This project includes work on the Historic Skamokawa Creek Channel and work in the Middle and East Valleys. Efforts are underway in the Historic Channel to improve water quality, restore fish utilization, and address flooding concerns. Two bridge installations are in process (design/permitting) to improve hydraulic conveyance and provide juvenile fish passage in the system. A grant application has been submitted to the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership for funds to construct the designed outlet structure. One stream restoration project was implemented along a mile of Falk Creek. Three stream restoration projects have been planned , designed, and permitted for construction next year.

Elochoman River Community Watershed: Increasing calls for assistance from landowners in the Elochoman River has prompted efforts to initiate a community watershed project. A stream restoration project was constructed in the lower river through a partnership with the local landowner and a private industrial timber company (donated wood). A formal grant application has been submitted to continue the project. This site will serve as a demonstration area for a community meeting to jump start the watershed project.

Key Project Partners: Local landowners, Skamokawa Diking District, Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force, Wahkiakum County, Department of Ecology, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Army Corps of Engineers, Farm Services Agency, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, and Recreation and Conservation Office.

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Wes Raistakka, Vice-Chair
Tony Aegerter, Auditor
Gerry Ledtke, Member
Vacant, Member

More Work To Do

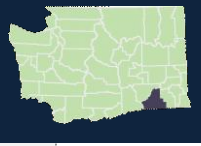
Continue to implement the districts long range and annual plans.

Coordinate and cooperate with resource partners to identify means to address local resource concerns (community watershed projects and knotweed are high priorities

Continue education / outreach efforts to increase local awareness of resource concerns and opportunities to address them.

Conduct legislative tours to illustrate the effectiveness a watershed approach at addressing natural resource issues

Walla Walla County Conservation District



State Legislative District #16
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Brewer Wetland Restoration – A Cooperative Project of the Priority Projects Group

When WA State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) needed to mitigate for wet-lands impacted by Phase 6 of the Highway 12 improvement project, WWCCD referred them to the Priority Projects Group (PPG) – a local group made up of representatives from WA-Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, the Blue Mtn. Land Trust, Tri-State Steelheaders, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the WWCCD. With funds provided by WSDOT, the PPG negotiated a perpetual 27-acre conservation easement, contracted for a Ducks Unlimited wetland rest-oration design and construction package, and ended up with 3 shallow ponds covering more than 2 acres with the balance of the easement planted to native upland species. The cost was $310,000 – a much lower cost than WSDOT usually pays for mitigation acres.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Dozier Instream Fish Habitat Restoration

Resource Challenge – In the flooding that occurred in 1996, the Touchet River corridor downstream of the City of Waitsburg was heavily damaged. Stream velocities elevated by the Waitsburg flood control dike system wreaked havoc on riparian habitat along the river in '96 and blew out much of the accumulated structure. What was left was largely a long riffle run, few pieces of large woody debris, high eroding stream banks, and very little vegetative cover.

Barbs and large wood used to enhance fish habitat on the Touchet River

Project Summary and Results – Landowner Perry Dozier recognized a worsening problem upstream from his farmstead in the late 1990s. Efforts to get help finally were rewarded in 2007 when a fluvial geomorphic assessment was completed that identified problem areas and potential solutions. The scope of the project that evolved was to assess, design and construct what became known as the "Dozier Project". Located in what is designated as the Middle Touchet River, a stream important to recovery efforts for ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead and Bull Trout, funding was granted through the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board's (SR-SRB) competitive process. In 2008, the SR-SRB and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation asked the WWCCD to take on the project when the project's original sponsor bowed out due to inadequate funding. With WDFW engineering help and the landowner adding his own funding, installation of the project was started in the fall of 2009. Additional structures were added in the fall of 2010 and final upland vegetation work completed in 2011. Installed were 5 barbs with root wads, 3 sweeper logs, 2,100 feet of stream bank treated and 2.9 acres of upland riparian zone planted to 3,260 native trees and shrubs. Total project cost was $78,198.

Key Project Partners – Key partners the Dozer Project were:

- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
- Walla Walla County Conservation District
- WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

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More Work To Do

Gardena Farms Irrigation District #13 North Lateral Piping Project

Old Lowden Ditch/Bergevin-Williams diversion consolidation project

Old Lowden Ditch/Bergevin-Williams irrigation delivery system piping project

Design and installation of the Blalock Irrigation District fish screen

Installation of the Stiller Pond Shallow Aquifer Recharge project

Piping of Garden City system

Warden Conservation District

State Legislative District #9, 13
Congressional District #4, 5

Other Accomplishments

Provided technical assistance to dairyman and livestock facilities.

33 Wildlife Habitat Plot practices implemented.

Applied for a grant for PAM application.

Had an Annual Meeting with speakers from Bureau of Reclamation, CRP, NRCS, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District, Grant County Public Utility District and Big Bend RC&D.

Worked with a dairyman and a company out of Spokane to spread potato solids on approximately 1,200 acres.

Without PAM applied.

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Preventing Soil Erosion

Resource Challenge –

Keeping soils from being dislodged from the wind, rain and irrigation. Federal and state water quality regulations require that growers implement management practices to minimize impairments to surface and ground water quality.

PAM Track Sack

Project Summary and Results –

Irrigation run-off can often be difficult to control on soils with low infiltration capacity such as poorly aggregated sandy soils, or soils susceptible to crusting. Research studies conducted have repeatedly demonstrated that PAM can significantly reduce sediment, nutrient, and pesticide concentrations in irrigation run-off from sprinkler and furrow systems.

Columbia Basin farmers, when used according to NRCS standard, Polyacrylamide (PAM) increases infiltration in addition to nearly eliminating furrow and sprinkler erosion. The greater infiltration associated with PAM-treated furrows and sprinkler systems can boost crop yields in sloping areas such that it's almost like giving the farmer the added yield equivalent of another irrigation during the growing season.

Once soil particles suspended in water are bound together by PAM, they settle out, so water has a harder time washing them out of irrigated fields. Less soil washed out of fields means better water quality for receiving waters and less topsoil being washed away. Stopping soil erosion also helps fish in the O'Sullivan and Potholes reservoirs because it reduces soil runoff into the water bodies.

The Warden Conservation District provided cost share assistance to 1,434 acres within their boundaries.

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Bo Claussen, Secretary/Treasurer
Don Underhill, Member
Glenn Burkholder, Member

More Work To Do

Warden Conservation District will continue to work on wildlife habitat projects.

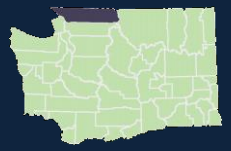
Waste transfer improvements with curbing/concrete work at a Warden area dairy.

Work on 6 dairy/feedlot nutrient management plan updates and any other new facilities.

Provide cost share assistance for other projects.

Work with the PUD's and RC&D on the energy efficiencies programs.

Whatcom Conservation District



State Legislative District #39, 40, 42
Congressional District #2

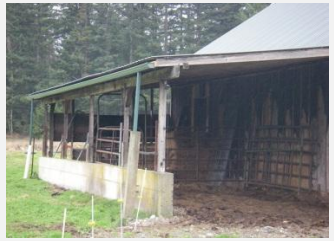
Other Accomplishments

- Landowners/Operators helped: 1,014
- Farm Conservation Plans developed: 28
- Dairy Nutrient Management Plans completed/updated: 59
- State Livestock Cost-share of $28,000 was provided with $14,626 producer match.
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) cost-shared: 2
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
  - Plans completed: 31
  - Stream feet planted: 63,496
  - Stream feet fenced: 24,332
  - Native plants installed: 41,664
  - Acres planted: 82.1
  - Projects maintained: 131
  - Acres maintained: 624
  - Culverts replaced: 2
- Other riparian restoration
  - projects implemented: 15
  - Stream feet planted: 30,270
  - Native plants installed: 22,704
  - Bank stabilization projects installed: 600 feet
  - Fish passage barrier removed: 3

2011 Feature Accomplishments

Farm Make Over Project-

Livestock water facility (bottom right) and gutters & downspouts (below) installed on farm by Don & Donna Starr shown with Wayne Chaudiere.



Resource Challenge – Don and Donna Starr's small farm (35 acres) is just outside of Blaine. About half their land is forested. Dakota Creek meanders through the middle of their place. Their biggest challenge was to raise cattle on wet soils next to a salmon stream leading to a commercial shellfish harvest area. They wanted to ensure that they are doing their part to improve and protect habitat conditions for salmon and water quality for shellfish in Drayton Harbor. At the same time they needed to keep their operation sustainable. Don believes that increasing pasture productivity increases animal weight, reduces vet bills increases and improves the profitability of their operation.

Project Summary and Results – The Starrs have made significant progress on their goals. Nearly 3 acres of forest buffer, 837 feet of fencing, and a livestock watering facility (pipeline and tank) were installed to protect Dakota Creek. These improvements were completed with WCD help through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP provides landowners a combination of federal and state funds to restore critical salmon habitat. At the Starr's own expense, rain gutters, downspouts and outlets were installed on the barn to reduce mud and improve water quality. They also installed 100 feet of culvert in a ditch next to the barn to keep contaminants (pathogens, nutrients) out of surface water.

Extensive ditching helped dry the soils, but made it harder to protect all that drain water. The opportunity to improve this situation came via two newly approved CREP practices: Hedgerows and Wetland Buffers. In March, an acre of land along these ditches was restored with hedgerows and wetland buffers and livestock were excluded with 1,980 feet of new fence.

Commitments to their land and a long term vision have led the Starrs down the path of environmental stewardship.

Key Project Partners –Washington State Conservation Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency.

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Joseph Heller, Chair
Terry Lenssen, Vice-Chair
Larry Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Stone, Member
Richard Yoder, Member

More Work To Do

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 28 CREP participants approved for installation in spring 2012

Livestock

- Workload of 132 referrals from the Department of Agriculture for assistance to livestock operations; includes dairies.

Whidbey Island Conservation District

State Legislative District #10
Congressional District #2

Other Accomplishments

Capacity Building
- Moved office to a highly visible, efficient space
- Updated to ArcGIS and AutoCAD for planning
- Planner completed WSU Extension LID Certification
- Farm Planner completed Level 3 NRCS Conservation course

Farm Planning and Technical Assistance
- 2 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans completed (500.5 Acres)
- 7 Farm Conservation Plans completed (46 acres)
- Assisted in implementing 91 BMPs

Forest Planning and Technical Assistance
- 5 Forest Conservation Plans completed (60 acres)
- Assisted in implementing 29 BMPs
- Developed forest plan templates for increased efficiency

Professional Engineering Services
- Partnered with N.W. Straights Foundation in Cornet Bay Nearshore Restoration Design project
- Partnered with Whidbey Camano Land Trust in Skagit Bay Nearshore Restoration Design project

Outreach and Education
- 5th annual Farm Tour – 20 farms open hosting 3,500 attendees
- 5,870 plants sold at annual Native Plant Sale
- 376 attendees at District workshops

2011 Feature Accomplishment

Stormwater Bioretention System

Resource Challenge –
The Clinton Community Hall is a public meeting facility near the Clinton ferry dock, and is operated by the Clinton Progressive Club. Stormwater from their parking lot was draining down a pedestrian pathway and onto state Highway 525, where it was conveyed directly into Saratoga Passage. Stormwater flowing from roads and parking lots is known to carry high concentrations of pollutants, such as copper, zinc, sediment, and petroleum compounds, which could adversely affect water quality and aquatic life in the nearshore habitat.

Installing the bioretention system.

Interpretive sign explains bioretention system treating and infiltrating stormwater.

Project Summary and Results –
Tom Slocum, District Engineer, and Rob Hallbauer, a Natural Resource Planner with WICD, performed a site evaluation and determined that the landscaped area just downslope from the parking lot would be suitable for a bioretention system. They designed a system to collect, treat, and infiltrate the stormwater flows from the parking lot. Several local businesses and community groups generously donated time, labor, money, and materials to make the project possible. The swale and bioretention basin were installed in the spring of 2011. Now all of the stormwater from the parking lot is kept on the site and infiltrated into the soil. In addition to lending beauty to the landscaping, the plants in the bioretention basin help to filter and cleanse the parking lot runoff.

Key Project Partners –
Clinton Progressive Association, Island Marine Resources Committee, South Whidbey Garden Club, Whidbey Island Garden Tour, Island Asphalt, RL Construction, Whidbey Telecom

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Board of Supervisors:
Fran Einterz, Chair
Wendi Hillborn, Auditor
Tom Fournier, Treasurer
Tim Keohane, Member

More Work To Do

- Surface water quality monitoring data indicates that land based activities continue to have detrimental effects on streams, lakes, and marine waters on and around Whidbey Island.
- 72% of Island County residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water and household use.
- WICD continues to address these challenges through our farm, forest, and stormwater (Low Impact Development) programs, targeting areas of highest need.

Whitman Conservation District

State Legislative District #9
Congressional District #5

Other Accomplishments

Shop Talk: Home Grown Fuel
We partnered in a Conservation Innovation Grant with Steve Camp to finish the final phase of the District's Alternative Crop Project.

Annual Public Input Meeting
The Board of Supervisors goal: Increase Public Awareness and Input into District Activities.

Hosted 2011 Annual Plant Sale
Assisted 45 customers, selling over 2,000 plants.

Whitman County Envirothon
Assisted with Contest, serving 10 teams or 50 students.

Annual 5th Grade Conservation Planting

2011 Feature Accomplishment

District Cost-Share Program

Resource Challenge – Whitman Conservation District specifically focuses on the natural resources diversity found within its boundaries: 10" – 21" rainfall; variations in tillage operations from traditional 2-year crop rotation with tillage to a 3-year crop rotation with no tillage; rangeland to pasture grazing and management. Our District Cost-Share Program is as diverse as the resources, providing opportunities for all constituents to participate.

Small Wind System (Energy)

Precision Farming

Project Summary and Results – This year we assisted 8 producers resulting in 10,651 acres and 1 mile of stream being improved through the installation of:

- 1 trough
- 1,200 feet pipeline
- 1 livestock well
- 1 pasture seeding
- 1 direct seed system
- 2 precision farming installations
- 691 trees and shrubs
- 1 small wind system (energy)
- 8 conservation practice plans

Direct Seed

The District Cost-Share Program provided $17,069 which was matched by participants at $68,601 resulting in $85,670 being spent for on-the-ground implementation of conservation practices.

Key Project Partners – Whitman Conservation District Landowners, Operators, Board of Supervisors, Staff; SE Area Professional Engineer; and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Board of Supervisors:
Cory Aeschliman, Chair
Walter Riley, Vice-Chair
Tom Kammerzell, Secretary
Dennis Kincaid, Auditor
Jan Turney, Member

More Work To Do

The Board of Supervisors will continue to:

-seek constituent input for District Direction

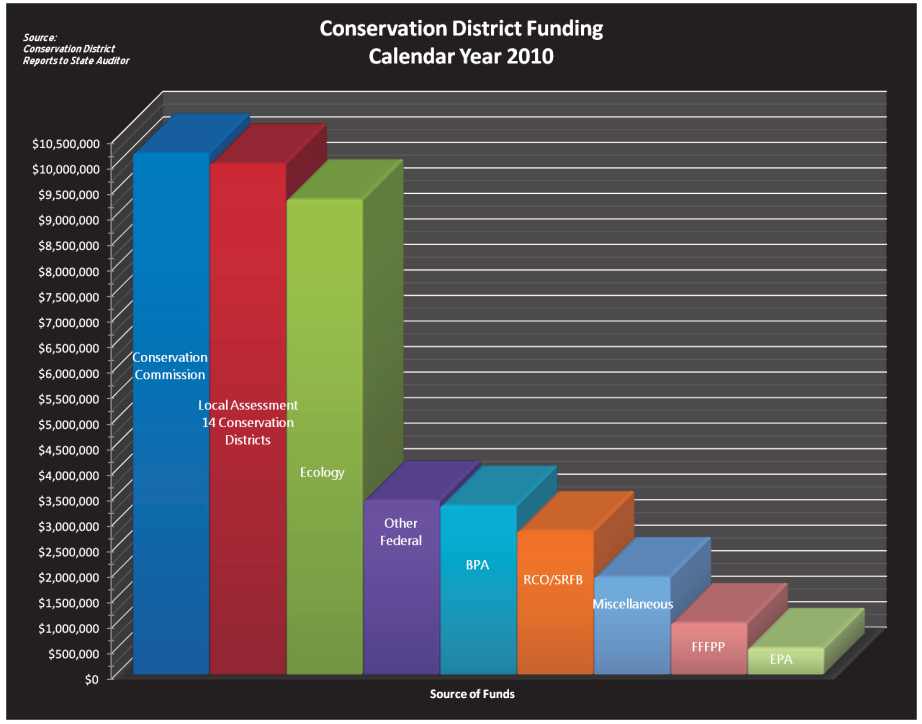
-promote the current District Programs

- seek additional appropriate funding opportunities

-pursue alternative energy resources

-seek additional partnerships to further on-the-ground implementation activities

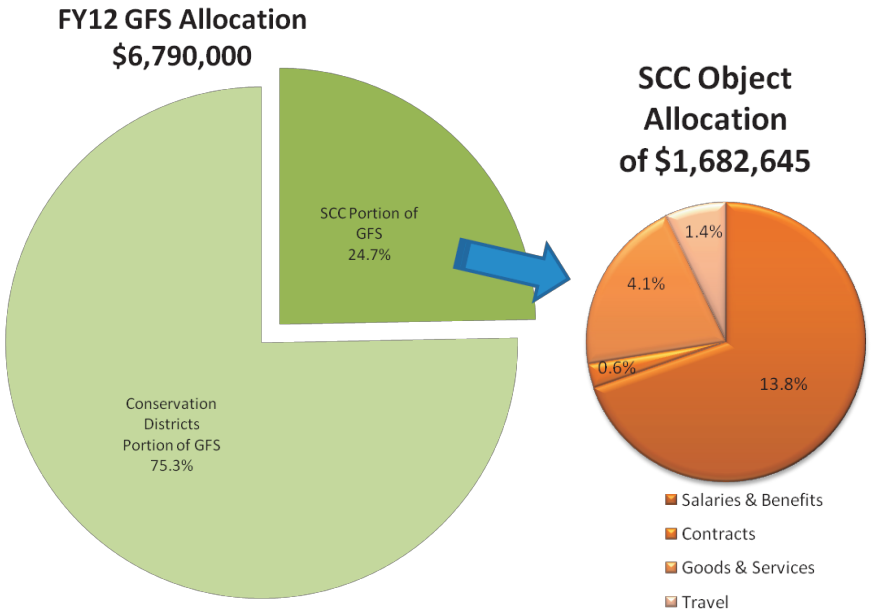
Budget & Finance

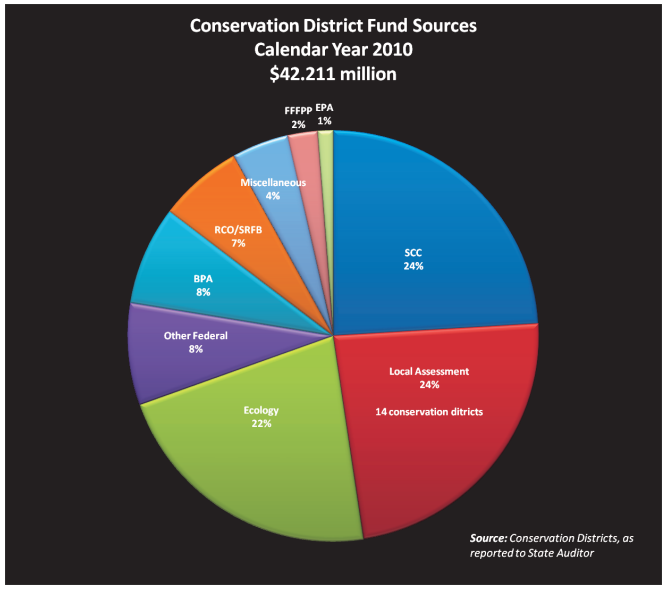


Conservation Commission Accounting

- The same financial staff who complete all actions and activities associated with conservation district contracts, payments, record keeping, and training, are also responsible for the agency accounting and state budget processes. This includes reporting to the Office of Financial Management performance measures achieved by conservation districts and Conservation Commission, submitting all Operating and Capital budget information through OFM system.
- A dozen inter-agency agreements between the Conservation Commission and other entities require quarterly reporting and billing.

For FY11, more than 1,200 internal agency accounts payable transactions were processed.



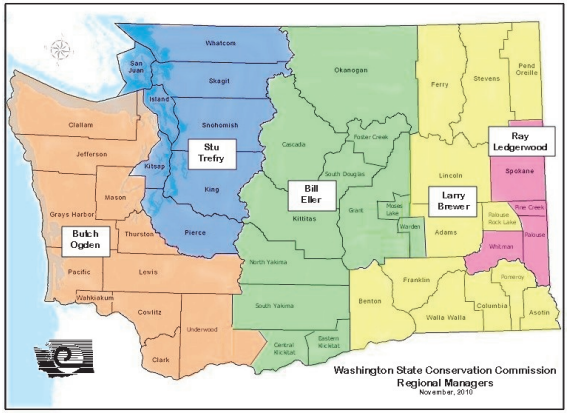


Outreach Services

Accomplishments

This year's major accomplishments for Commission Regional Managers include:

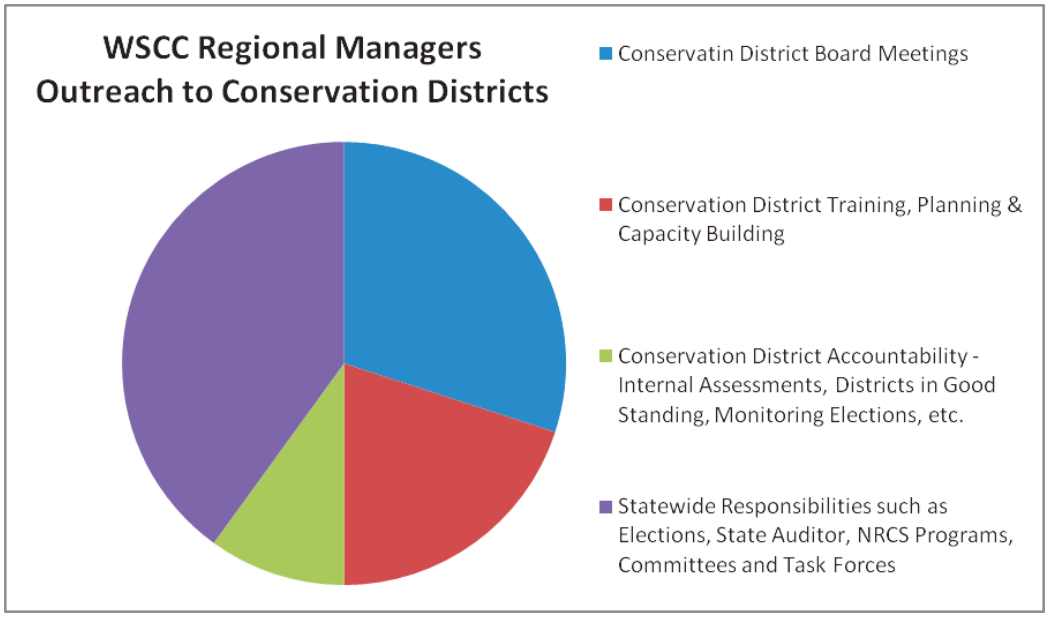
- 45 conservation districts in "Good Standing".
- Successful first year assisting conservation districts using the *Schedule 22 Internal Assessment* with the State Auditor's office, which districts meet the requirements of state law.
- Overseeing 47 successful conservation district elections.
- Assisting conservation districts in developing or updating their long range plans.
- Assist conservation districts in taking advantage of NRCS programs.
- Providing liaison services between districts, state and federal agencies.



Conservation Commission Regional Managers provide a unique service to conservation districts and to the citizens of the State of Washington.

Regional Managers bring a unique connection to the conservation partnership. They are responsible for providing direct service to conservation districts. This service includes assisting with the leadership and administrative capacity so they can assist private landowners in improving natural resources.

Activities center on providing conservation districts with examples, methods, facilitation and resources to connect land managers, government entities, stakeholders, and the natural resources needs through district program planning & implementation. Regional Managers also evaluate and assist on district performance on financial, operations, governance, program delivery, relationships and agreements with partners.



Creating Collaboration

The role of a Commission staff person is not limited to their job title. Our staff are involved in a number of various groups and organizations. Their time and input are valuable to the groups they are involved with. Below are only a few examples:

- **Coordinated Resource Management** - WSCC is an active member of the 11 organization Coordinated Resource Management Executive Committee and CRM Task Group(CRM). CRM is a procedure designed to (1) achieve compatibility between the uses being made of our natural resources, which include agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, forage production and use, forest products, recreation, land development and others; and (2) improve land and water resources and their perpetuation in high quality condition. A Coordinated Resource Management plan covers all ownerships of the planned area. All major uses of the area are considered in an effort to coordinate activities and maximize resource management opportunities.

- **Local Working Group** - WSCC staff provides facilitation services for the 10 USDA Local Groups statewide. USDA Local Work Groups are multi-organizational groups that include organizations and agencies with interest in federal Farm Bill Program planning and implementation. Local Work Groups provide local input to natural resource conservation priorities in their area, review results of program implementation, provide input on eligible practices for cost share, and the amount of cost share by practice. The Local Work Groups are organized as part of a state wide group called the State Technical Advisory Committee that advises NRCS on priorities for program implementation.

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service –** WSCC continues their 76 year historical working relationship with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service including coordinating program planning, resource assessments, program delivery, outreach to land managers. WSCC and NRCS also work together on technical assistance needs for conservation planning and practice application including federal and state funding for technical service. Many conservation districts share space with NRCS in USDA Service Centers providing a more convenient location for conservation programs and service to clients. A mutual agreement between USDA Secretary of Agriculture, state of Washington Governor, and each conservation district sets the foundation for this local, state, federal partnership.

- **National Association of Conservation Districts –** WSCC participates in NACD committees, meetings and events in order to harvest ideas on conservation program delivery from other states throughout the nation. NACD is a non-profit, non-governmental association of the 3,000 conservation districts of the states and island territories.

- **National Association of State Conservation Agencies –** WSCC is an active member of NASCA, a non-profit, non-governmental association of the state conservation boards and commissions. WSCC participates in NASCA committees, meetings, events and most importantly information exchange utilizing the "Ask NASCA" internet network for questions, ideas, and examples of conservation programs and administration from throughout the nation. WSCC was a founding member for the development of an annual nationwide Field Staff Idea Sharing Session where state agency personnel share techniques, concepts and information about service, programs, conservation district operations, funding and oversight.

Successful Events

Over the course of the year, the Commission has been asked to participate in a variety of venues that not only increased the visibility of the Commission and conservation districts but also the awareness of who we are and what we do.

Commissioner Lynn Bahrych assisting a visitor at the Mother Earth News Booth.

Mother Earth News Fair - SCC was an exhibitor during the Annual Mother Earth News summit. This event brought in several thousand visitors during it's two-day run in the City of Puyallup. The WACD Plant Materials Center provided nursery stock for WSCC to distribute.

The Mother Earth News is a national magazine focusing on sustainable agricultural practices. We were very fortunate to have been a part of the 2011 summit. Due to the success of 2011, Mother Earth News has announced it will return in 2012.

Washington State Dairy Federation Annual Meeting - SCC was an exhibitor at the 119th Washington State Dairy Industries Annual Meeting in Pasco. WSCC Executive Director, Mark Clark and Policy Director, Ron Shultz participated in a panel discussion on budget. This event was a great opportunity to connect with dairy families across the state.

Dig It! The Secrets of Soil - Lynn Bahrych, Commission Member has been instrumental in getting this educational exhibit out to Washington State. The exhibit first debuted at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. in 2008. Dig It! The Secrets of Soil is an educational adventure into the amazing world of soils.

Dig It! The Secrets of Soil exhibit will be featured at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane from February - September 2012.

Commission Staff

Debbie Becker, Administrative Services Manager
Debbie has been with SCC since 2000 and is currently responsible for management of agency budget and financial allocations to conservation districts and leads the team of contract and administrative staff.

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Mark has been the Executive Director since December, 2002, and began at the Commission in 1999. He is responsible for the operations and management of the agency and staff and reports to the 10-member commission.

Ray Ledgerwood, Program Coordinator
Ray was employed with SCC from 1979 to 1990, and returned in 2003. Ray provides statewide program coordination assistance to CD supervisors and employees. He also coordinates work with major partners and provides facilitation expertise.

Ron Shultz, Policy & Intergovernmental Relations
Ron joined SCC in 2007 and serves as Policy Director for the Commission, Ron represents the agency in a variety of policy forums including the Natural Resources Subcabinet, Puget Sound State Caucus, and the Biodiversity Council.

Stu Trefry, Manager, District Operations & Outreach Services
Stu was employed with SCC from 1996 to 2000, and returned in 2003. He manages statewide service delivery for CD operations through Regional Managers employed across the state. He also serves as NW Regional Manager; and provides policy guidance on urban and community conservation issues at State and National levels.

Commission Staff

Mary Bilderback
Fiscal Analyst/Grant Specialist

Larry Brewer
Eastern Regional Manager

Jon Culp
Irrigation Efficiencies Grants Program Manager

Bill Eller
CW Regional Manager

Megan Finkenbinder
Program Specialist

Josh Giuntoli
Office of Farmland Preservation Program Coordinator

Lori Gonzalez
Administrative Assistant

Karla Heinitz
Contracts Specialist

Jack Myrick
Irrigation Efficiencies Technical Coordinator

Butch Ogden
SW Regional Manager

Carol Smith
Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator

Courtney Spradling
Contracts Specialist

Acronyms

BMP	Best Management Practice
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CRBWMP	Columbia River Basin Water Management Program
CRM	Coordinated Resource Management
CWMA	Cooperative Weed Management Area
DFW	(WDFW) Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
DNR	(WDNR) Washington Department of Natural Resources
DOA	(WDOA) Washington Department of Agriculture
DOE	(WDOE) Washington Department of Ecology
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (NRCS program)
EPA	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
FFFPP	Family Forest Fish Passage Projects
FSA	USDA Farm Services Agency
LID	Low Impact Development
LWD	Large Woody Debris
IWM	Irrigation Water Management
NFWF	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
NRCS	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
OFP	Office of Farmland Preservation
RCO	Recreation and Conservation Office
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
SCC	State Conservation Commission
SRFB	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
SWAPA	USDA, NRCS term for "soil, water, air, plants, animals"
TA	Technical Assistance
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
USFS	US Forest Service
USFW	US Fish and Wildlife
USGS	US Geological Services
WACD	Washington Association of Conservation Districts
WADE	Washington Association of District Employees
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WQ	Water Quality
WSU	Washington State University
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area

Acknowledgements

The Washington State Conservation Commission appreciates the following individuals and organizations for their contribution of information to the 2011 Annual Report:

Washington State Conservation Commission
Debbie Becker, Mary Bilderback, Larry Brewer, Mark Clark, Fred Colvin, Jon Culp, Bill Eller, Megan Finkenbinder, Josh Giuntoli, Lori Gonzalez, Karla Heinitz, Ray Ledgerwood, Butch Ogden, Ron Shultz, Carol Smith, Courtney Spradling and Stu Trefry

Washington State's 47 Conservation Districts

Adams
Asotin
Benton
Cascadia
Central Klickitat
Clallam
Clark
Columbia
Cowlitz
Eastern Klickitat
Ferry
Foster Creek
Franklin
Grant
Grays Harbor
Jefferson
King
Kitsap
Kittitas
Lewis
Lincoln
Mason
Moses Lake
North Yakima
Okanogan
Pacific
Palouse
Palouse-Rock Lake
Pend Oreille
Pierce
Pine Creek
Pomeroy
San Juan
Skagit
Snohomish
South Douglas
South Yakima
Spokane
Stevens
Thurston
Underwood
Wahkiakum
Walla Walla
Warden
Whatcom
Whidbey Island
Whitman

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