



## 5-Year Plan (2010 to 2015) Franklin Conservation District

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### Organization of the Franklin Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08.

The West Franklin Soil Conservation District was formed on October 2, 1951. In 1959 the name was changed to the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and under the law of 1973 the District became known as the Franklin Conservation District. By 1973 all lands in Franklin County, except the City of Pasco, were included in the District.

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### Function of the Franklin Conservation District

*To take available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.*

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### We Serve & Why

- The citizens of Franklin County and the region to enhance economically and improve the quality of the community.

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### Mission of the Franklin Conservation District

- *The Franklin Conservation District promotes the conservation & wise use of natural resources by providing educational, technical and financial assistance to natural resource users.*

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### Vision of the Franklin Conservation District

- Keep farmers farming
- The importance of agriculture to the Tri-City area is recognized
- Decreasing nitrate levels in ground water
- Farmers in our district are using monitoring and soil testing on every Franklin CD field
- Make growers aware of Franklin CD and all of them using our services
- Keep a viable (well funded) conservation program in Franklin County
- Continued education program in the schools
- More adoption of GPS technology
- The WSCC will continue to help fund CDs
- Importance of agriculture to Franklin County is known within the CD
- Continued use and operation of the Snake River Dams
- Ability to use saved water resources – water bank type & incentive system in place
- Water conservation activities in urban areas through education
- Reduce wind erosion
- Increased organic matter – especially in sandy soils

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### Values of the Franklin Conservation District

- Leadership
- Honesty
- Integrity
- Conservation ethic
- Service to constituents (growers and citizens)
- Customer service (make easy for customers – streamlining procedures)
- Care about people we serve

- Technically sound work
  - Economically feasible solutions – healthy economics
  - Good working environment
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#### **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:**

- Water Quantity (use, conservation)
  - Soil Quantity, Quality, Health, Erosion Control
  - Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)
  - Wildlife Habitat
  - Air Quality
  - Education (in all above)
  - District Operations
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#### **Critical Geographic Areas:**

- Orchard areas – phase out of organo-phosphate pesticides per EPA regulations
  - Dry land farming areas – CRP takeout, new technology
  - Urban conservation areas – services for underserved
  - 15 mile radius of Juniper Dunes Contains – wildlife habitat, dairies, orchards
  - Irrigated land on sandy soils
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#### **Water Quantity – Use and Conservation – Education Priorities and Goals:**

By January 2015 have a demonstrated increase in: number of irrigated acres; Number of irrigated acres under irrigation water management, the number of water right transfers; the issuance of new water rights, and the amount of water saved and available for use in Franklin County.

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#### **Soil Quantity, Quality, Health, and Erosion Control – Education Priorities and Goals:**

By January 2015 have a demonstrated increase in farms at soil loss tolerance level or better; the number of producers understanding soil condition index (SCI); increase in soil biological activity (soil sampling); and numbers of people attempting improvement in soil quantity, quality, etc (people participating).

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#### **Water Quality Improvement – Ground and Surface – Education Priorities and Goals:**

By January 2015 have a demonstrated increase in: the number of acres enrolled in irrigation water management and nutrient management; the sources of pollution addressed; a decrease in the amount of nitrates in ground water; and improvements in water quality measurements.

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#### **Wildlife Habitat – Education Priorities and Goals:**

By January 2015 have a demonstrated increase in the acres in 'habitat' balance; in the number of acres of new and enhanced wildlife habitat; and the number and acres of habitat addressed in conservation plan.

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#### **Air Quality – Education Priorities and Goals:**

By January 2015 have a demonstrated reduction in PM 10 emissions; # of complaints (dust, odor, smoke); and an increase in # of people served and the number of acres addressed in conservation plans.

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#### **District Operations – Education Priorities and Goals:**

By January 2015 have successful district and state audits; a demonstrated increase in people that want to become supervisors; stable funding for programs and operations; and will own our office that is accessible and size appropriate.

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## Education – Priorities and Goals:

By January 2015 have a demonstrated increase in: the number of people reached; number of education activities; and number of people performing conservation activities.

By January 2015 have a demonstrated increase in the number of agreements with entities; and the number of people participating in programs & services.

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## Trends Impacting Conservation in the Franklin Conservation District

- Increase in districts becoming inactive – effecting other district's programs
- Increase in larger agriculture organizations – not necessarily working with districts
- Increase in urban growth
- Increase in environmental regulations
- Increase in funding for aquifer studies
- Decrease in ground water sampling and water quality data collected
- Agricultural base becoming smaller – less people involved
- Decrease in state conservation budget and increase in federal budget for conservation
- Decrease in assessment funding because of increase in urban growth
- Decrease in education funding
- Increase in organic and sustainable (economic, environmental, social ) farming
- Increase in CRP acres removal
- Increase in technology use

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## Strategies to Address Trends

- Education awareness program
- Expand assessment to all incorporated areas
- Data that is collected and/or access to make available to citizens for conservation work
- Plan and develop the public awareness effort – audience specific
- Maintain role in Local Work Group – funding federal
- Educating from within the staff and members on how to market district programs and services
- Continue to find and provide cost share incentives – have a listing of projects ready to go for grants and funding opportunities

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## Natural Resource Data:

Area Description	Acres
Franklin County	809,422
Cultivated Cropland	486,836
Irrigated Cropland	247,926
Dry Cropland	238,910
Rangeland	202,356
Public Land	99,000
Private Land	710,442

Nearly 112,000 acres of dry cropland have been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Less than 4% of the irrigated cropland remains in furrow or flood irrigation with the majority of the conversion to sprinkler irrigation occurring in the last 15 years. Public lands include a portion of the Hanford Reach National Monument and Juniper Dunes Wilderness Area.

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## Staffing Needs

- Keep the existing staffing levels and add a shared position with Benton CD – options being considered – admin position to allow manager and assistant time in field or hire another technical person -

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## Annual Budget Needs

- Estimated at \$1.5 million

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## Key Decision Makers

- City Councils
- City Managers
- Chambers of Commerce
- City councils
- City managers
- School boards
- Public works director
- Benton / Franklin Health Department
- Teachers
- Superintendents
- Curriculum directors
- WEA
- Ag Teachers
- WA Fish & Wildlife
- BLM
- Benton/Franklin Health District
- WSU Cooperative Extension
- NRCS state and area agronomists
- Media contacts & celebrities
- USDA leaders
- Governor
- Local Working Group members
- Land managers
- EPA
- County Commissioners
- Irrigation District Board and staff
- Ecology
- BPA
- State Legislators and staff
- Irrigators
- Environmental groups
- Tribes
- Coalitions of commodity groups
- Local citizens

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## Priority Actions – 12 Months

### Strategic Priority: Water Quantity

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions
Ability to use saved water in Franklin County	Jan 2010 through Jan 2015	
Get Big Bend REA to participate in BPA SIS program	May 2010	

Preserve Water Conservancy Boards	Jan 2010 through 3 years	
Research the type of water rights transfers that have occurred	By Jan 2011	
Complete grant work on Columbia River management Program	By Jun 2011	
Issue at least one new water right in Franklin CD	By Jan 2015	

### Strategic Priority: Soil Quantity, Quality, Health, Erosion Control

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions
Define the soil quality data we need to collect	By Jan 2011	
Have completed workshop series for producers on soil quality and quantity	By Mar 2011	
Collect and share soil quality data information with producers	By Mar 2013	
50% of the CRP acres taken out farmed to positive soil conditioning index (SCI)	Through Jan 2015	
Establish a baseline for soil quality & biological activity in Franklin County (organic, dry land, irrigated)	By Jan 2014	
Conservation Deep Furrow Drill Prototypes developed & tested	By Jan 2013	

### Strategic Priority: Water Quality Improvement (ground and surface)

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions
Increase to 20,000 acres under irrigation water management	By Dec 2010	
Increase to 10,000 acres under nutrient management plans	By Dec 2010	
Continued decrease in amount of nitrates in groundwater - % of wells exceeding 10 mg/L reduced by 10%	By Dec 2011	
Sources of pollution addressed referrals from SCBID, Dept. of Ag. Ecology, EPA addressed by district	ongoing	
Map existing water quality standards and measurements and identify areas of exceedance	By Dec 2012	

### Strategic Priority: Wildlife

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions
Create a baseline of where the sources of habitat diversity are (from existing data)	By Jan 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contact WDFW for existing data.</li> </ul>
Increased funding sources identified for wildlife habitat programs	ongoing	
20% increase in new and/or enhanced wildlife habitat	By Jan 2015	
Develop demonstration plots on 5 farms in different habitat areas in county	By Jan 2015	
Tours to highlight wildlife habitat activities	On-going	

### Strategic Priority: Air Quality

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions

### Strategic Priority: Education & Outreach (in all above)

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions
Develop an outreach plan	By Dec 2011	▪
10% increase in number of people reached	By Dec 2015	▪ Through existing education activities
Find funding for existing education & outreach activities	On-going	▪
Develop new outreach tool to reach existing participants and new participants	By Dec 2013	▪ Design a newsletter ▪ Contribute regularly to newspaper/magazine articles ▪ Workshops and demonstration sites
5% of people reached implementing conservation practice	By Dec 2015	▪ Survey
Increase number of people participating in district programs and services to 75%	By Dec 2015	▪
Increased number of agreements with other agencies and partners	By Dec 2015	▪

### Strategic Priority: District Operations

Benchmark	Timeline	Actions
Conduct Annual internal audit – all issues addressed	annually	
Participate in state audit with no findings	Each 2 years	
Solicit at least 3 new associate supervisors and have them actively participate in district board meetings and special events	By Dec 2011	
Incorporate City of Pasco into district boundaries / assessments	By Dec 2015	
Build an office adjacent to USDA Service Center	By Dec 2015	

### Washington Conservation Districts assisting Land Managers' with their conservation choices

