



## 5-Year Plan (2009 to 2014) Adams Conservation District

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### Organization of the Adams Conservation District

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

- *The Ritzville Conservation District was formed in 11/23/1951, the "Benge-Washtucna" District was formed in 11/25/1952, (these two agencies consolidated into The Adams SWCD 1963)- the Lind area was annexed in 1964-in 1966 "8 townships" along the western edge of the county transferred to the Warden CD in anticipation of the arrival of the "East High" Columbia Basin Irrigation canal system and in early 2000 Lincoln County released more Adams County lands to the current Adams CD region following a Lincoln County assessment providing the Adams Conservation District with approximately 900,000 acres of conservation responsibilities out of the total 1,219,665 Adams County acres.*

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### Function of the Adams Conservation District

To make 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 district services approximately 650,000 acres of dry cropland, over 40,000 acres of irrigated and approximately 300,000 acres of rangeland all primarily agriculture activities providing conservation protection or solutions for a quality resource base.*

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### Mission of the Adams Conservation District

- *The Adams Conservation District promotes the enhancement of the natural environment and provides technical assistance to develop a positive relationship toward achieving that goal.*

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### Vision of the Adams Conservation District

- *Enhancing the natural environment through farming standard improvements and public education objectives.*

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### Values of the Adams Conservation District

- *Preservation of the natural resources through the prevention of non point pollution & enhanced education objectives through leading edge technology.*

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### Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- *Maintain support for conservation equilibrium between the 4 WRIA areas within this conservation districts area of responsibilities.*
- *Odessa Aquifer water withdrawals are depleting the ground water resource-maintaining interaction with political agencies, public interest groups and local producers requires frequent interaction between three counties and area support organizations to identify corrective action solutions.*
- *AFO/CAFO issues continue to change process for local animal producers and this concept has resulted in numerous BMP's requiring both technical and financial support.*
- *Storm events continue to bring an awareness to the community of how sensitive the environment is to wind and water erosion characteristics requiring the establishment of priority areas in order to accomplish measurable environmental improvements.*
- *Cow Creek and Palouse River areas of the conservation district are under EPA 303d consideration and TMDL activities generally attributed to addressing corrective action brings a priority emphasis toward addressing this area of concern.*

- *Through GWMA support activities such as Irrigation Water Monitoring, Deep Soil Sampling, Geographical Information Systems and well testing programs the district supports the four county program to identify nitrate in the ground water issues.*

### **Critical Geographic Areas:**

- *The Odessa Sub Aquifer remains the county wide priority critical issue.*
- *The Cow Creek & Palouse River drainage area remains as a regulatory referral priority concern for livestock operators.*
- *PM-10 & 2.5 fugitive dust or air pollution s are identified as a potential area of concern as a result of some conventional farming activities.*

### **Information – Education Priorities and Goals:**

- *Provide educational support to the area schools and communities through continued annual field day support, essay contests, newsletters, publication, flyers, webpage support, "Wheatland" fair participation, FFA soil judging support and any future opportunities that will promote the protection of the area natural resources.*

### **District Operations Priorities, Goals:**

- *By January 2012, complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, supervisor election & appointment positions filled, training & development, annual planning and reporting updated.*

### **Trends Impacting Conservation in the Adams Conservation District**

- *Among the most significant trends impacting conservation within the district is the increased bureaucracy associated with CAFO/AFO accountability including the increased documentation associated with meeting the changing public funding projects.*

### **Strategies to Address Trends**

- *The proposed legislative reduction of funding opportunities will forcibly reduce the volume of accomplishments and that alone will reduce the volume of documentation required, however streamlining the reporting objectives and or identifying contract vendors that can more economically improve productivity objectives compared to direct district labor will be a goal for addressing this trend.*

### **Natural Resource Data:**

- *Issues concerning natural resource concerns are being addressed through a variety of avenues including Columbia Basin Development League, Ground Water Management area programs, Big Bend RC&D, local working groups, Ducks Unlimited, cooperative WSU extension services, NRCS, Department of Ecology and the state conservation services. There remains a sizable priority need to aid the livestock producers in meeting clean water act obligations.*

### **Staffing Needs**

- *The district requires replacement support for planning, GIS mapping support including supervisory administrative requirements while maintaining equilibrium for meeting technical assistance for implementation activities for producers including water quality monitoring, nursery development, grant writing and grant vouchering activities and this challenge will be dependent upon availability for accessing conservation grant awards that can specifically target local area concerns. Changing budget issues will continue to adversely impact overall decisions pertaining to all future staffing needs.*

### **Annual Budget Needs**

- *FY2009 estimates are approximately in \$633,714.00 requests for implementation services. Many of these requests are a result of regulatory referrals being forwarded from Ecology to this district for technical assistance support.*

### **Key Decision Makers**

- Local landowners, operators or their representatives, Watershed Resource Inventory area partners, Local Work Group representatives, WSU cooperative extension, Natural Resource Conservation services, Washington Association of Wheat Growers, Big Bend Resource Conservation & Development, Columbia Basin Development League, Bureau of Reclamation, Ground Water Management Area, Ducks Unlimited, Department of Agriculture, Washington Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, Adams County Commissioners, Adams County Health Department, District supervisors, staff and management all provide assistance in the decision making process for the Adams Conservation District.

**Priority Actions – 12 Months**

- Enter a summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Conservation District based on the above information.

Action	Begin Date	End Date
Acquire an office administrator Acquire a replacement supervisor Acquire more Technical Service Provider support Acquire and or train an employee with GIS assistance Acquire and or train a conservation planner Acquire and or train a Webpage design individual Train field personnel to assist with "Off Site Water" support requirements Train field Personnel to assist with Sediment containment requirements Seek additional alternative technical resource employees for fence requirements Improve & upgrade computer intranet & network capabilities Cross train administrative staff to implement increased flexibility Increase community education activities Provide technical assistance as requested	5/2009 5/2009	

**Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**

