



5-Year Plan (2012 to 2017)

Cascadia Conservation District

For More Information Contact: (509) 664-9370



Organization of the Cascadia Conservation District

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

- *The Chelan County Conservation District was formed on October 15, 1973 when the Wenatchee-Entiat Soil Conservation District (formed on March 24, 1948) and the Lake Chelan Soil Conservation District (formed on March 30, 1948) combined. The name was changed to Cascadia Conservation District in June 2007. The current district boundaries include all of Chelan County except the incorporated cities of Wenatchee and Chelan.*
- *The District is governed by five supervisors; three are elected and two are appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission.*

Function of the Cascadia 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 community with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

- *We serve all those who have a connection to Chelan County resources by working with Chelan County landowners.*
- *We are enthusiastic about conservation and people, and work to reach cooperative solutions that create the greatest good for the greatest number of people.*

Mission of the Cascadia Conservation District

To encourage wise stewardship and conservation of all natural resources for current and future residents in Chelan County by:

- *Being an active advocate for wise land use and water management decisions.*
- *Promoting a reasonable approach to environmental problems.*
- *Providing locally-led, voluntary, non-regulatory solutions to local environmental problems.*
- *Educating both adults and youth about natural resources stewardship.*
- *Monitoring and responding to future trends that affect the environment.*

Vision of the Cascadia Conservation District

- *To have all private landowners in the County aware of the District, what it does, how it can help them.*
 - *To encourage landowners to actively participate in conservation actions, personally and collectively.*
 - *To have enough available water for all beneficial uses including domestic, irrigation and fish by developing water storage and implementing water conservation practices, and by leveraging the maximum amount of funding possible for these activities.*
 - *To drastically reduce the need for regulatory agency intervention by working collaboratively with landowners and these agencies to address issues before regulation becomes necessary.*
 - *To implement strong conservation programs that address the quality and quantity of water resources in the County, and balance competing demands on those resources.*
 - *To improve the ability to get financial and technical assistance to the appropriate and most beneficial projects.*
 - *To improve efficiency and reduce duplication of effort in the various basins.*
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Values of the Cascadia Conservation District

- *Trustworthy, honest and transparent*
- *Local solutions to local issues*
- *Customer service to landowners, partners, vendors and funding sources that is friendly, personable, respectful and responsive*
- *Help landowners with voluntary and non-regulatory stewardship on the ground*
- *Fiscally responsible, committed, efficient, results-oriented, quality work*
- *Partnership approach to projects*

Natural Resource Priorities, Measures of Success and Goals

Water Resources

By March 2017, conservation practices will be in place that will help maintain the quantity and quality of the water supply in Chelan County.

Actions:

- *Increase water conveyance and application efficiency where appropriate.*
- *Advertise and make available the water exchange program for landowners in the Entiat watershed.*
- *Investigate water exchange options outside the Entiat watershed.*
- *Work to achieve a target of 80% of the agricultural operations in the county implementing best management practices (BMPs) that support water quality and quantity.*
- *Work toward a majority of other private landowners being aware of and voluntarily implementing best management practices (BMPs) that support water quality and quantity.*
- *Work with partners to implement the water quantity and quality recommendations in the Wenatchee watershed plan.*
- *Coordinate and implement the water quantity and quality recommendations in the Entiat watershed plan.*

Forest Health – Fire Management

By March 2017, reduce potential impacts from wildfires.

Actions:

- *Continue to support implementation of the County Fire Plan.*
- *Seek funding to assist FireWise Communities to implement fuels reduction and forest health management projects.*
- *Participate in the Northwest Prescribed Fire Council.*
- *Continue to partner with state & federal agencies and seek additional opportunities to conduct mutually beneficial projects.*
- *Conduct outreach efforts as needed.*

Land Use

By March 2017:

- *Assist growers interested in farmland preservation / development easements.*
- *Assist landowners to maintain their water rights.*
- *Have strong connections between agricultural producers and the community.*
- *Continue to serve as liaison between farmers and regulatory agencies.*

Actions:

- *Identify farmers who may be interested in farmland preservation / development easements.*
- *Encourage connections between agricultural producers and the community.*
- *Administer the Conservation Commission's Ruckelshaus Process grant program as needed on behalf of Chelan County.*
- *Conduct a countywide resource inventory and prioritized action list to assist with coordinated funding recommendations.*
- *Develop an Urban Conservation outreach and assistance program.*

Habitat Enhancement-Stream Enhancement

Instream Habitat

In 2014 and 2017, implement the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) plan in the Entiat watershed.

Actions:

- *Work with partners to identify projects that meet the goals of the IMW plan; seek willing landowners and secure funding to begin preparations for the 2014 and 2017 implementation windows.*
- *Assist and protect landowners who implement instream projects.*
- *Work with funding sources to establish a compensation or litigation fund for large wood restoration projects.*

Riparian Habitat

By March 2017, work with willing landowners to re-vegetate 8000 feet or more of stream bank in Chelan County.

Actions:

- *Implement the replanting, bank stabilization, and channel restoration recommendations in the Entiat and Wenatchee watershed plans with willing landowners.*
- *Seek funding and opportunities to assist landowners on other, non-salmon-bearing streams.*

Upland Habitat

By March 2017, improve wildlife habitat in upland areas.

Actions:

- *Develop plant / seed bank.*
- *Seek projects, partnerships and education opportunities to support upland habitat and promote local species, including mule deer, pollinators and beneficial insects, and barn owls.*
- *Develop private organization and citizen partnership projects, such as seed packet distribution with hunting licenses to promote native species restoration.*

Monitor Project Implementation

Actions:

- *Keep apprised of monitoring protocol development.*
- *Seek funding for monitoring activities.*
- *Negotiate long term funding for post-project monitoring and maintenance.*

Noxious Weeds / Invasive Species / Pests

By March 2017, noxious and invasive plant and pest control will be incorporated into District projects, where appropriate:

- *Integrated Pest Management and bio-control practices will be made available through cost share and other programs.*
- *Reseeding and vacant land management options will be considered, especially for disturbed land.*
- *Weed and pest education and management strategies will be pursued with partner agencies.*
- *Insects and other pests will be monitored and controlled in partnership with other agencies.*
- *Aquatic pests will be treated in various waterbodies.*

Actions:

- *Identify and incorporate treatment for threats from noxious and invasive plants and pests in implementation projects and farm planning / cost share agreements.*
- *Partner with Chelan County Weed Board to develop education materials and seek project opportunities.*
- *Partner with Chelan-Douglas County Pest Board to monitor and follow up on target pest species.*
- *Convene advisory meeting to identify solutions to private land pest problems affecting agriculture.*
- *Seek projects and funding opportunities to address aquatic pests and noxious weeds.*

Critical Geographic Areas

- *None identified.*

Information – Education Priorities, Measures of Success and Goals

By March 2017, the District will:

- *Achieve community awareness and acceptance as the primary conduit for voluntary conservation of natural resources.*

- Make everyone in Chelan County aware of who we are and what we do as a result of our I & E programs.
- Secure sufficient staff and funding for a coordinated, comprehensive, organized outreach program.

Media and Materials

Actions:

- *Continue to utilize public awareness opportunities to promote natural resource stewardship.*
- *Install project identification signs at major ongoing and selected completed visible project sites.*
- *Distribute annual reports to key decision makers, partners and citizens.*
- *Continue to promote Cascadia through electronic and social media.*
- *Develop and distribute materials such as a Small Farm Manual and information on rural living in Chelan County.*
- *Update display equipment and materials.*

Programs and Events

Actions:

- *Continue to utilize opportunities to promote natural resource stewardship and public awareness of Cascadia and its mission.*
- *Include quality outreach efforts in all projects.*
- *Continue to offer the Kids in the Creek program annually to all interested area high schools, develop web-based resources for the curriculum and training videos for resource specialists, and work toward creating an interactive web-based, expanded version of the program.*
- *Continue Picture the Wenatchee outreach program.*
- *Continue offering Earth Day Essay Contest.*
- *Conduct Annual Native Plant Sale.*
- *Conduct Native Planting 101 Classes.*
- *When funding permits, participate in regional efforts such as Envirothon and Witnessing Change.*
- *Organize and maintain an active volunteer program.*
 - *Increase volunteer opportunities and recognition.*
 - *Host events such as river cleanups.*
 - *Partner with other agencies such as US Forest Service and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust for trail maintenance and special projects.*

District Priorities, Measures of Success and Goals

Priorities:

- Maintain effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, Supervisor elections & appointments, training & development, annual planning, budgeting and reporting.
- Have enough staff, office space and equipment to support all goals.

Goals:

- Keep informed and work proactively on policies affecting voluntary implementation of conservation practices.
- Be available to the citizens of Chelan County as a liaison and technical resource for local environmental solutions.
- Encourage annexation of the Cities of Wenatchee and Chelan into the District boundaries to allow their citizens to participate in, and benefit from, District programs.
- Own an office building and lease space to the Service Center agencies.

Actions:

- *Continue to monitor natural resource-related policy development at local, regional and state levels*
 - *Meet with County Commissioners at least monthly to receive information and keep them updated on District activities and needs.*
 - *Participate in WACD efforts to work with legislators in support of priority legislation*
- *Develop a plan for stable funding and office building purchase / lease options.*

- *Seek funding and training opportunities to encourage professional development of staff.*
- *Maintain a fleet of 3 vehicles. Seek funds to purchase a 4th vehicle.*
- *Participate in WACD efforts to work with legislators in support of priority legislation.*
- *Conduct annual District election and appointment activities; review and/or update as needed: RCW 89.08, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Agreements (MOAs), policy resolutions and Employee Handbook.*
- *Hold annual planning workshop to inform public of District achievements and obtain input on the annual plan.*

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Cascadia Conservation District

- *Changes in land use / impacts to agriculture*
- *Climate variability*
- *Water resources / balance competing uses*
- *Increased presence of noxious weeds / phase-out of chemical controls*
- *Regulation*
- *World market competition for agricultural products*
- *Increasing population and demographic changes / uninformed residents*
- *Fewer funding sources / smaller amounts available*

Strategies, Services & Products to Address Trends

- *Provide technical and financial assistance to increase water delivery and irrigation efficiencies, work toward increased water storage capacity, and encourage water conservation and implementation of BMPs for improving and protecting water quality.*
- *Educate and encourage communities to implement fire plans.*
- *Seek opportunities to educate / inform citizens about the importance of agriculture in the community and local connections to producers; assist producers with voluntary farmland preservation / development easement projects; demonstrate community-directed forest and / or other resource lands management techniques.*
- *Identify stream reaches needing restoration and landowners willing to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) within those reaches.*
- *Maintain partnerships with a variety of agencies and organizations to maximize program effectiveness and shared resources.*
- *Actively promote the visions and goals of the District.*
- *Seek long-term, sustainable funding sources, continue writing and implementing grants for project work and District marketing, and maintain successful general operations.*

Staffing Needs

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| ▪ <i>District Administrator</i> | ▪ <i>Administrative Assistant</i> |
| ▪ <i>Program Manager</i> | ▪ <i>Office Assistant</i> |
| ▪ <i>Project Coordinator II (2)</i> | ▪ <i>Education & Outreach Specialist (3/4 time)</i> |
| ▪ <i>Project Coordinator</i> | ▪ <i>Engineer</i> |
| ▪ <i>Resource Specialist II</i> | ▪ <i>Archaeologist (2 – part time)</i> |
| ▪ <i>Resource Specialist (2)</i> | ▪ <i>AmeriCorps Intern</i> |
| ▪ <i>Resource Technician (2)</i> | ▪ <i>Maintenance Technician (summer intern)</i> |

Natural Resource Data:

Water Quality continues to be a primary focus in Chelan County. The majority of the District's work falls under the following plans and guidance documents, which have incorporated a significant amount of statistical, monitoring and historic data as well as analyses:

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| ▪ <i>Entiat Watershed Plan</i> | ▪ <i>Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan</i> |
| ▪ <i>Wenatchee River Watershed Plan</i> | ▪ <i>Chelan County and Community Fire Plans</i> |
| ▪ <i>WRIA 40 Watershed Plan</i> | |

- *Lake Chelan Total Maximum Daily Load Cleanup Plan*
- *Wenatchee River Total Maximum Daily Load Cleanup Plan*

In addition to these resources, the Intensively Monitored Watershed process currently underway for the Entiat River is expected to yield additional information on the success of instream projects in specific reaches of the river. This data will be used to guide future restoration work in the watershed.

Annual Budget Needs

▪ <i>Staff (includes wages and benefits)</i>	\$ 900,000
▪ <i>Goods and services</i>	250,000
▪ <i>Other services and charges</i>	980,000
▪ <i>Office & field equipment</i>	20,000
▪ <i>Cost share</i>	<u>100,000</u>
▪ <i>Total</i>	<u>\$2,250,000</u>

Key Decision Makers

- *Board of Supervisors*
- *U.S. President*
- *County Commissioners*
- *Conservation Commission*
- *State & Federal Legislators*
- *NRCS*
- *Other Agency Partners*
- *Banks*
- *Private Foundations*

Benchmarks, Timeline, & Actions: The Natural Resource Priorities sections above include information on the District’s implementation goals, timeline and actions. See also the Cascadia Conservation District Annual Work Plan for further details.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

