



## 5-Year Plan (2011 to 2016) Central Klickitat Conservation District

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### Organization of the Central Klickitat Conservation District

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

- Established in 1946, CKCD has a full and varied history of conservation in Klickitat County. Our ultimate goal has always been and continues to be, cooperation with landowners to provide the most on-the-ground conservation for the dollars spent. As conservation practices progress, we have adopted the new technology to provide the best in conservation to our constituents.
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### Function of the Central Klickitat 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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### Who We Serve & Why

- Landowners and people between the Klickitat River and Rock Creek in Klickitat County with natural resource problems and concerns, individuals and groups that want to make a difference in conservation. Our goal is to improve, conserve and wisely use natural resources by providing technical assistance, by sharing in the cost of natural resource improvements, and providing BMP's to help prevent or solve regulatory actions.

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### Mission of the Central Klickitat Conservation District

- The mission of the Central Klickitat CD is to improve, conserve and promote the wise use of natural resources by serving citizens within the CKCD through educational programs, public information, technical advice, and financial assistance.

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### Vision of the Central Klickitat Conservation District

- Become fiscally self sustaining and be able to continue to improve the quality of technical assistance and financial assistance to land users

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### Values of the Central Klickitat Conservation District

#### We believe in:

- Treating everyone equitably and in a positive manner
- Being frugal with funds
- Not being intrusive on private land rights
- Implementing successful and beneficial projects
- Saying what we are going to do - and doing what we say
- Informing people so they understand landowner commitments and the CD obligations to conservation efforts
- Good locally led grass roots conservation
- Not being a regulatory agency – nor do we intend to be
- Wise use of natural resources
- Cooperative, incentive based programs
- Assisting landowners in being proactive with natural resource issues
- Helping landusers comply with regulatory conservation efforts
- Partnership agreements with governmental agencies.
- Sustaining the agro-forestry environment in Klickitat County

## **Natural Resource Priorities and Goals For The Next 5 Years:**

- Improve fish habitat to attract sportsmen
- Increase public knowledge and visibility of CD and what it does
- Make Brooks Park successful including the transfer and 5 year operations and maintenance – make a true resource
- Plant health and vigor on forest lands and riparian areas – including BMPs
- Develop natural resource education programs, activities and demonstration areas
- Improve water quality and quantity through irrigation efficiency conservation and public education – IWM
- Continue emphasis on water quality and practice implementation
- Increase volunteer base
- Reach out to small farmers – demographics in CD are changing
- Energy conservation through planning and management practice implementation
- Improve forest health and have acreage fire-safe
- Increase public education on agriculture, natural resources and land use
- Livestock producers with CAFO will have a conservation plan
- Increase knowledge of Brooks Park resources, especially with local residents
- Noxious weeds controlled at Brooks Park
- Expanding the winter recreation opportunities at Brooks Park and throughout the county
- Have working forest throughout the CD including Brooks Park
- All programs have a youth focus also
- Successful integration of Brooks Park into the conservation district programs
- Reaching out to absentee land owners with an education program
- Forest land owners offered a forest management plan
- Be supportive of our wildlife and their habitat

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## **Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)**

1. Little Klickitat basin
2. Swale Creek
3. Rock Creek

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## **Priority Natural Resource Conservation Issues:**

- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Forest & Range Health
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Soil Quality

## **Other Strategic Priorities:**

- Education & Outreach & Marketing
  - Volunteer Program
  - Research & Monitoring
  - Brooks Park Operations
  - District Operations
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# **Strategies to Address Priorities**

## **1. Water Quality:**

- **TMDL – Little Klickitat**

**Goal:** By March 2016, be closer to achieving the TMDL goals (Little Klickitat) and have a demonstrated improvement in water quality measurements

**Strategies:** Improve shading, reduce sedimentation, Increase depth to width ratios, increase flow by upland work on spring enhancement, look at irrigation efficiencies program and EQIP for potential funding, reestablishment forest stands, consider a reservoir for holding water, manage storm water runoff

**Actions: Ongoing**

1. Increase riparian plantings through the use of local youth groups or contractors
2. Continue projects with mountain springs
3. Reduced sedimentation with streambank repair projects
4. Provide information and education with new landowners to maintain and improve existing riparian conditions
5. Treat storm water – low impact development, bioswale, natural filters

- **Swale Creek**

**Goal:** By March 2016 have completed at least 3 projects that reduce sedimentation or increase shade

**Strategies:** Improve shading, reduce sedimentation Increase depth to width ratios, increase flow by upland work on spring enhancement, look at irrigation efficiencies program and EQIP for potential funding, reestablishment forest stands, consider a reservoir for holding water

**Actions:**

1. Reduced sedimentation with streambank repair projects
2. Provide information and education with new landowners to maintain and improve existing riparian conditions
3. Cooperate with DOE & KCNR on STI for Swale Creek. **By 2013**

- **Rock Creek**

**Goal:** By 2016 have completed at least one fish habitat, riparian planting or water quality project.

**Strategies:** Improve shading, reduce sedimentation, improve fish habitat

**Actions:**

1. Utilize studies and assessments to prioritize areas for best implementation success
2. Seek additional funding as necessary – SRFB or DOE **By 2013**
3. Cooperate with DOE & KCNR on STI for Rock Creek **By 2014**

## **2. District Operations**

**Goals:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of people aware of district programs, diversity of the managed project, the services with landowners for implementation of conservation practices, and secure related funding to meet the goals and needs for staffing and cost share

**Strategies:** Maintain or expand the diversity of managed projects and services available to landowners, increase staffing as necessary to meet district goals, and increase the awareness of the district by local landowners.

**Actions: Ongoing**

1. Continue water quality projects, including livestock, habitat, sediment reduction, riparian plantings
2. Maintain or expand the TA opportunities for area residents e.g. forestry workshop, wq workshops, realtor workshops, etc
3. Increase public awareness (see #7 above)
4. Maintain or increase staffing as necessary to meet district goals and objectives. Identify funding sources for staffing needs.

### 3. Forest and Range Health:

**Goal:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of forest and rangeland conservation plans, in practice implementation and effectiveness (native species abundant), in stable soil and surface water, and noxious weeds under control

**Strategies:** Increase awareness of the need for forest and rangeland plans, assist with writing and reviewing plans, provide technical assistance when needed.

**Actions:**

1. Sponsor small forest owners workshops annually **Beginning 2012**
2. Provide technical assistance and cost share for implementation of BMPs
3. Development of conservation plans with flexibility and management objectives with increase in acreage treated

### 4. Water Quantity:

**Goal:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of conservation practices installed, a positive change in the in-stream flows and duration, all monitoring sites maintained, and static water levels (wells)

**Strategies:** Maintain stream flow and well sounding programs, implement irrigation efficiency projects, and improve ability to utilize water banking

**Actions: Ongoing**

1. Operate stream gauge stations & continue water quality monitoring
2. Identify projects and landowner interest for irrigation efficiency upgrades
3. Offer cost share for irrigation efficiencies

### 5. Fish and Wildlife Habitat:

**Goal:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of projects (funded), in number of practices and mitigated wildlife habitat, in funding spent coupled with quality of habitat, and number of species observed in counts

**Strategies:** Identify affected landowners, contact agencies for information and data, send mailings, hold information meetings, involve partners, investigate potential to assist wind developers with selecting a mitigation project, document successful construction projects

**Actions:**

1. Identify project areas for SFRB funding, obtain local organizational support, submit applications
2. Contact wind farm representatives and evaluate viability for mitigation
3. Document projects, conduct effectiveness monitoring, report annually
4. Continue Rock Creek habitat projects, stay involved in STI

## 6. Soil Quality:

**Goal:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of acres meeting NRCS Soil Quality Criteria, and the number of test plots to measure and observe erosion in priority areas

**Strategies:** Coordinate with NRCS personnel to evaluate the number of soil quality improvement projects funded

**Actions: Beginning 2012**

1. Meet with NRCS technicians annually

## 7. Education & Outreach & Marketing

**Goal:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number and variety of education offerings and attendance

**Strategies:** Increase public awareness of the conservation district, maintain or increase involvement with local schools, explore new partnerships for additional programs

**Actions:**

- 1 Enlarge newsletter mailing list
- 2 Update the website regularly, including Brooks Park website
- 3 Develop a facebook page & website for Brooks Park **(By July 2011)**
- 4 Use Ecology grants for ELC educational opportunities by providing for buses, or paying ELC costs for water quality instructional programs **(By 2012)**
- 5 Explore new partnerships for additional programs (4-H, challenge courses, workshops)
- 6 Involve local news outlets with articles, programs, to educate and inform

## 8. Research and Monitoring

**Goals:** By 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of research projects and results (new and ongoing), the number of hours of effort leading to an increase in dissemination of information and adaptation and the completeness and applicability of the research in monitoring

**Strategies:** Maintain at least the current level of stream monitoring within the district

**Actions:** Write grants to continue to fund wq technician position.

## 9. Volunteer Program

**Goals:** By 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of volunteers and the number of hours and quality of work, leading to a related increase in accomplishments from volunteer activities

**Strategies:** Increase volunteer opportunities, especially at Brooks Park. Track volunteer hours and accomplishments

**Activities:**

1. Define volunteer policies and procedures
2. Identify needs at Brooks Park and within the District
3. Develop a system to track hours and accomplishments

## 10. Brooks Park and Recreation

**Goals:** Monitor State Parks' ownership of the Park. Stay up to date on their plans and use of the facility and be ready to act toward ownership if called for.

Be ready to help implement our Business Plan for State Parks if asked and if paid for our services

IF ownership is transferred:

By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of people using the park while having a minimum impact on the natural resources of the park. Be self sufficient in funding.

By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in the number of recreational opportunities, in recreation usage and funding with a resulting increase in revenues throughout the community because of more recreational opportunities

**Strategies:** Identify workload, activities, income/expense budget. Do a quarterly review of the business plan implementation and make needed corrections. Prioritize and seek funding for park infrastructure improvements with timeline and budget. Select site for horse camp and lay out trails

**Actions:**

1. Utilize advertising and marketing to increase park usage **By Jan 2012**
2. Identify location for horse camp and trails. Clear 15 miles of trail **By Jan 2012**
3. Develop a priority plan for park improvements with budget. Seek funding **By March 2012**
4. Consider combining outreach/education tech to be p/t park ranger **By Jan 2012**
5. Track budget monthly to ensure profitable cash flow **Monthly beginning at transfer**

## 11. Land Use:

**Goal:** By March 2016 have a demonstrated increase in District involvement in land use issues, positive changes over time (after inventory), a lower percentage of the numbers of acres being developed and or divided, an increased diversity of land users

**Strategies:** District will stay involved in land use issues, track changes over time including the acres developed or divided, track the diversity of land users

**Actions:**

1. Encourage landowners to participate in Farmland Preservation opportunities
2. Provide Technical review when requested

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## Staffing Needs

- District Manager
- Administrative Assistant
- Technical Position #1 - water specialist
- Engineer
- Engineer Assistant
- Technical Position #2 – Brooks Park Ranger #2 p/t
- Information – Education (part time or include in Tech position #2)
- Brooks Park Ranger – Full Time

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## Annual Budget Needs

Salary & Benefits.....	\$ 316,000
Equipment.....	\$7,000
Office Supplies.....	\$ 7,500
Programs & Cost Share.....	\$150,000
Building and/or Rent & Utilities.....	\$1,850
Transportation.....	\$8,800
Training.....	\$5,800
Other - insurance – dues.....	\$5,500
Other __Prof Services, advert contracted labor.....	\$6,000
<b>Total Annual Budget Need.....</b>	<b>\$508,450</b>

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## Key Decision Makers

- Governor
- District Supervisors
- Committees of state legislature
- WSCC
- County Commissioners
- Each state and federal legislator
- Agencies we work with – local, state, federal
- WACD
- Presidents and Executive Directors of commodity organizations

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## Acronyms used in this document:

**BMP .....** Best Management Practice

**DOE .....** Department of Ecology (WA State)

**ELC .....** Environmental Learning Center (at Brooks Park)

**EQIP .....** Environmental Quality Incentive Plan

**KCNR ....** Klickitat County Natural Resources

**NRCS ....** Natural Resources Conservation Service (federal agency)

**SRFB ....** Salmon Recovery Funding Board

**STI .....** Straight to Implementation (circumvents the TMDL process)

**TA .....** Technical Assistance

**TMDL ..** Total Maximum Daily Load (a process to get non-compliant streams into compliance)

**WACD ..** Washington Association of Conservation Districts

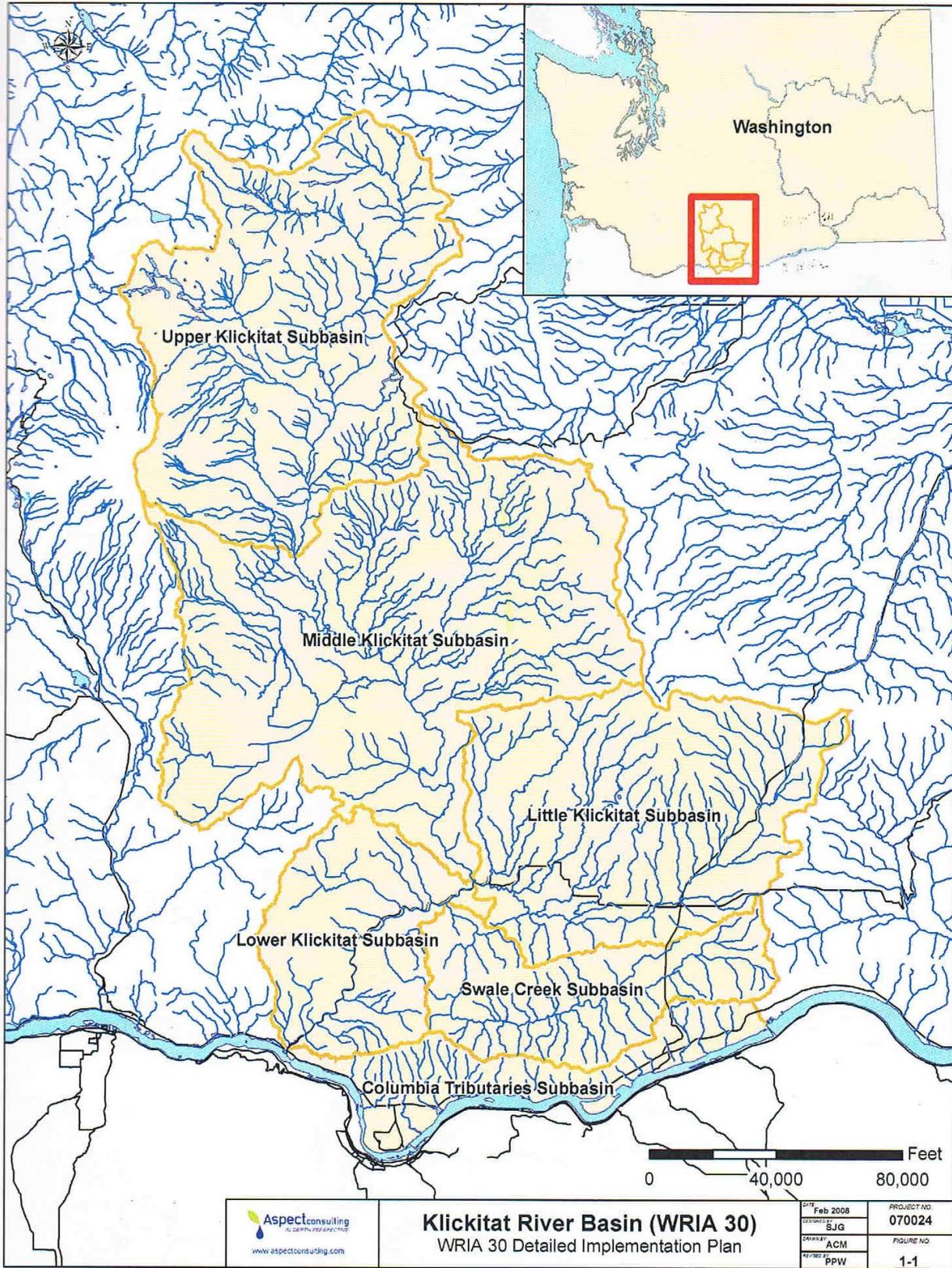
**WSCC ...** Washington State Conservation Commission

**WQ .....** Water Quality

**Washington Conservation Districts assisting land**



**managers with their conservation choices**



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