



## **5-Year Plan (2011 to 2015) Mason Conservation District**

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### **Organization of the District**

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

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### **Mission of the District**

To promote the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources in our community.

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### **Function of the District**

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources and coordinate them to meet the needs of residents to accomplish the mission of the District.

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### **Vision of the District**

A healthy natural resource environment that supports livable communities and a sustainable economy.

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### **Values of the District**

- Financial integrity and transparency regarding use and allocation of public resources.
- Delivering cost-effective programs and common sense conservation.
- The District's role as a liaison between land managers and other government agencies.
- Earning the trust of our clients by the value of the services we deliver.
- Stewardship practices supporting working lands and vibrant ecosystems.
- Collaborative leadership in community-based conservation.
- Passionate pursuit of excellence to create value.

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### **Natural Resource Priorities**

- Increase awareness and action among shoreline landowners to protect fresh and marine water quality.
- Implement riparian management plans for streams and lakes in Mason County.
- Increase use of appropriate forest management practices by small forest landowners.
- Provide natural resource risk assessments to protect life and property.
- Assist in organic waste management and help develop beneficial uses of excess organic resources in Mason County.

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### **Critical Geographic Areas**

- All watersheds of Mason County are critical geographic areas.
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## **Technical Assistance – Education Priorities**

- Educate and engage our audience in the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of natural resources in our community.
  - Increase the public's knowledge of the functions, services, and opportunities provided by the District.
  - Communicate the value of natural resources to the residents of Mason County.
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## **District Operations Priorities**

- Secure sufficient funding/financial resources to achieve mission.
  - Increase community awareness of the benefits of conserving and sustaining natural resources.
  - Deliver equitable services with Integrity.
  - Implement innovative and cost-effective conservation solutions.
  - Assist with the implementation of conservation practices.
  - Build and strengthen effective partnerships.
  - Expand efforts to increase recognition of the District and its programs.
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## **Trends Impacting Conservation in the District**

- Population growth of 17.4% in Mason County from 2000 to 2009.
  - Changing demographics and economic conditions.
  - Changing land use patterns and regulations.
  - Increasing demands for water and prioritization of utilization.
  - Increasing regulatory actions to achieve Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance.
  - To meet increasing demand for technical assistance with insufficient and unstable funding.
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## **Strategies to Address Trends**

- The District will implement priority actions through the Annual Plan of Work
  - Continued investment in professional development for District staff to increase knowledge and efficiency in the development of effective strategies for natural resource management.
  - Awareness of developing constraints on water availability and energy availability necessary to sustain quality of life and a livable community.
  - Increased emphasis of District efforts toward marine shorelines.
  - Develop and implement effectiveness monitoring strategies for District conservation initiatives.
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## **Key Decision Makers**

- Residents and landowners in Mason County
  - District Board and staff
  - Mason County Commission
  - State and federal policy makers
  - Native American tribes
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