



5-Year Plan (2008 to 2012) Pacific Conservation District

For More Information Contact:

Mike Johnson, (360) 875-9424, paccon@willapabay.org or

Cathy Trotter, (360) 875-9427, ctrotter@willapabay.org



Organization of the Pacific Conservation District

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

The economy of the Pacific County and the Pacific Conservation District is driven by natural resource-based industries. Timber, dairy, beef, fish, cranberries and shellfish account for an overwhelming proportion of the local economy. The lower portions of 20 tributaries that drain into Willapa Bay (Water Resource Inventory Area 24) are utilized as agricultural resource lands. There are presently 10 active dairies containing approximately 3500 animals along the Willapa River (Tim Kellogg, Soil Conservationist, 360/875-6300). Another 170 smaller livestock farms exist in Pacific County containing approximately 1800 animals (Willapa Bay Watershed Bacteria and Evaluation Control Strategy, Department of Ecology, 1992). Over 1500 acres of cranberry bogs are harvested annually in Pacific County (Kim Patten, Washington State University – Long Beach, 360/642-2031). Willapa Bay is Washington's most productive shellfish estuary and produces some of our state's most healthy salmon runs.

The waters of the Willapa Basin (Water Resource Inventory Area 24) have been under scrutiny for the past 10-15 years. Portions of Willapa Bay have been identified as water quality limited due to bacterial pollution (Willapa Bay Watershed Bacteria and Evaluation Control Strategy, Department of Ecology, 1992).

Past timber harvest, high forest road densities, and failing culverts have contributed to high levels of suspended sediments, habitat degradation and accessibility to critical Salmonid habitat in the waters of Willapa Bay and its associated tributaries.

Results from a Total Maximum Daily Load study of the Willapa River has found levels of fecal coli form, dissolved oxygen, and water temperatures that exceed state water quality standards. Japanese Knotweed has become a major problem within the Willapa Watershed. This noxious weed has taken over and displaced native riparian vegetation.

The Grayland ditch, a watershed that drains run off from surrounding hills and the Grayland Cranberry bogs was found to have the highest level of three insecticides that have ever been found in Washington State waters. The Long Beach Cranberry area has also become a focus over the past year and similar practices will be implemented to address and prevent water quality concerns

Within the past two years levels of fecal coli form bacteria from unknown sources have caused Shell fish/Oyster growing area down grades. The Willapa Bay Oyster Industry is one of the highest producers of Shellfish in the United States.

While no ESA listed stocks are present within Willapa Bay there are several depressed stocks that are of major concern to the local infrastructure with our boundaries. Salmon recovery is an ongoing process within Willapa Bay WRIA #24.

The population within the Pacific Conservation District boundaries is currently 21,000 and is growing at a rate of 1.6% (Bryan Harrison, Director, Pacific County Dept. of Community Development, 360/875-9356). The encroachment of "urban sprawl" on agricultural lands will intensify the scrutiny of agricultural production practices as potential sources of non-point pollution.

Function of the Pacific 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.

We Serve & Why

- The Pacific Conservation District serves all natural resource based groups within PCD boundaries to educate and address natural resource concerns and alternatives that benefit the landowner and the environment. This is often a difficult chore and may take a tremendous amount of time and energy. The groups and industries the PCD has and will work with into the future are as follows;

Pacific County Live stock producers	Pacific County Oyster growers
Pacific County Dairy producers	Pacific County Cranberry producers
Pacific County small forest producers	Pacific County Hobby Farm producers
The Pacific County Commissioners	Local City Government(s)
The Willapa Bay Water Resources Coordinating Council	Ducks Unlimited
Sportsman's National Land Trust	Washington State Department of Health
The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Southwest Cluster Engineer	Washington State Department of Ecology
Southwest Cluster Engineer Board	Pacific County Weed Management
The Washington State Conservation Commission	Local Schools
Coastal Resources Alliance	Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group
Olympic Natural Resources Conservation Service (U.W.)	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
The Natural Resource Conservation Service	Promotion of Programs to the citizenry of Pacific County
Ocean Spray Corporation	The Salmon Recovery Funding Board
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Washington State Cooperative Extension
Weyerhaeuser Corporation	ITT Rayonier Corporation
Cambell Group	Longview Fibre Timber Company
The Nature Conservancy	Mid Valley Resources
WACD / NACD	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
BPA	Coastal Watersheds Consulting
Lewis County Conservation District	Grays Harbor County

Mission of the Pacific Conservation District

- The Pacific Conservation District promotes sound; volunteer conservation programs and provides technical assistance to foster a healthy relationship between people and the environment.

Vision of the Pacific Conservation District

- Strengthen and promote the Pacific Conservation District's commitment to natural resource stewardship.

Values of the Pacific Conservation District

- The Pacific Conservation District promotes sound; volunteer conservation programs and provides technical assistance to foster a healthy relationship between people and the environment. The PCD values its relationship with its partners and cooperators and serves as a locally led, locally driven entity to serve its constituents within Pacific County while benefiting the environment with educated and common sense alternatives.

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- Water Quality in the Willapa watershed and other Watersheds within Willapa Bay WRIA #24 will meet water quality standards through the TMDL process and BMP implementation by the year 2009.
 - Water quality and riparian habitat improvements will be gained through the continued promotion and implementation of the CREP program. Improve Riparian Buffer habitat by removing Japanese Knotweed within WRIA #24. Replant riparian Buffers with native vegetation that has been displaced due to this noxious weed, (on going) a majority completed by 2011.
 - Water Quality Standards in the Grayland Cranberry bogs will be improved through continued BMP implementation: cribbing and covering of ditches and more efficient irrigation systems. Additional work with Ocean Spray and Growers association by 2009.
 - Produce and implement farm plans for forestry, beef cattle, dairy heifer operations and small hobby farms throughout Pacific Conservation District Boundaries, (on going basis) a majority completed by 2011.
 - Fish passability on Salmonid fish bearing streams within WRIA #24 will be improved by working with small forest landowners and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to reduce fish passage barriers. Salmon recovery within WRIA #24 will continue through the Lead Entity Process. Projects will be identified and implemented through the usage of the Willapa bay, WRIA #24, Strategic Plan for salmon recovery. Salmon Recovery will occur by 2021.
 - Create forestry program to work with small forest landowners to implement forest BMPs for water quality issues and higher product yield, by 2011.
 - Work with oyster growers association to assist in Water Quality (Fecal Coli form levels), Carboryll and Ghost Shrimp issues, by 2011.
-

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)

- See Attachments for Geographic Priority areas in the Watersheds within Willapa Bay. The Cedar River Watershed is listed as a low priority, but there is a portion; the Grayland Cranberry growing area within this watershed that is of very high importance and a high priority in the PCD Long Range Plan.

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- By 2009 all schools within the Pacific Conservation District Boundaries will be contacted to form an educational partnership with the PCD and the PCD will provide educational opportunities to all students within Pacific Conservation District Boundaries. Continued field tours will be provided.
- The PCD will promote the Environthon program and education to all local schools, by 2009.

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- The anticipated funding sources for the next 5 years include SRFB grants, DOE centennial Clean water fund grant, DOE CPF Grant, continued MOU's with Pacific County, FFFPP grant, continued Coop Agreement with NRCS, receive County assessment to begin Forestry and Water Quality Programs. With Assessment dollars provide funds to producers were funds are inadequate or do not exist using the Pacific Conservation District Ranking and Prioritization Plan, example Cranberry BMP implementation is inadequate with current funding sources and the need is extremely high in regards to water quality issues. Cranberry operators are able and willing to proceed but adequate funding is unavailable.
- By August of 2006, complete effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, Supervisor elections & appointments, training & development, annual planning and reporting

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Pacific Conservation District

- Conservation Districts seem to be more segregated as local economy's rise and fall and the funds CD's across the state apply for are becoming less in terms of dollars and more strategic in nature. Several CD's across the state receive special County Assessments while the majority does not and receive far less "hard money". Districts with assessments have more funding to go after larger grants while some of the smaller districts or those without assessments often have limited options. The role of a special assessment could provide support for a conservation program driven more by local needs rather than the current situation in which you try to fit your needs into the structure required by outside funding sources.

Strategies to Address Trends

- The Pacific Conservation District will strive to become more efficient with funding sources and the partners we serve. The PCD will also strive to gain a local Assessment that will allow the PCD to derive locally led and locally based conservation programs.
- Conservation Districts across the State that do not have a adequate source of Hard funding should strive to gain local assessments to even out the playing field. Conservation Districts that do not have assessments still have high priority natural resource concerns that need to be ranked and prioritized at a local basis..

Staffing Needs

- The Pacific Conservation District needs one additional employee to join staff that would be responsible for the on the ground BMP implementation and Salmon restoration activities with back ground in GIS for the above listed needs, entities and partners.
- The Pacific Conservation District needs one additional half time employee to join staff that would be responsible for commercial and hobby farm plans.

Annual Budget Needs

- The following summary of the annual budget needed to carry out the plan of the Pacific Conservation District based on the above information, are as follows;

Annual Budget needs	Target Dates	Estimated Funding
Implement livestock BMPs and Plans. Water Quality / Riparian / Salmon Habitat	2006 – 2011	\$50,000 Annual Minimum
Riparian, Water Quality / CREP T/A	2006 - 2011	\$16,000 Annual Minimum
Meet with landowners along Willapa and Naselle River systems to eradicate Japanese Knotweed, which is listed as a State Noxious Weed. Riparian	2006-2009	\$25,000 Annual Minimum
Cooperative agreement with NRCS. Objective will be to assist NRCS with BMP implementation. The top priority	2006-2009	\$7,500 Annual Minimum

will be to reduce the levels of pesticides detected in the Grayland ditch. Water Quality		
The technical assistance provided by the PCD will result in the development of individual farm plans.	6/05 – 6/06	\$10,000 Annual Minimum
Meet with Small Forest landowners to see if there is interest for the program and if there are additional partnerships that can be formed Forestry Assess	2006	\$7500 Bi-Annual Minimum
Provide Cost Share to newly formed forestry program	2006 - 2011	\$75,000 Annual Minimum
Culvert Replacement Project, Salmon/Water Quality	2006-2011	\$150,000 Annual Minimum
Salmon Restoration Project Salmon/Water Quality		\$ 300,000 Annual Minimum
WRIA #24 LE Coordinators Position / Salmon Recovery for Willapa Bay, Planning Implementation	2006-2011	\$52,000 Annual Minimum
Meet with Oyster growers to see if there are additional partnerships that can be formed.	2006 - 2011	\$15,000 Annual Minimum
Local County Special Assessment / Needed for implementation of new locally prioritized projects and assistance to Pacific County in Oyster Forestry and Cranberry industry issues	2007 - 2011	\$250,000
Total Annual Budget Needs	2006 - 2011	\$558,000 Annual minimum

Key Decision Makers

- The following is a summary of the key decision makers needed to carry out the plan of the Pacific Conservation District based on the above information. PCD Board, WSSCC, Pacific County Commissioners, SRFB, WDFW, DOE, Washington State Legislature, Local Cities, DOA, NRCS and most of all the citizens who volunteer their time and some resources to implement stronger land Stewardship methods.

Priority Actions – 12 Months

- The following summary of the priority actions needed to start the 5-year plan of the Pacific Conservation District based on the above information.

Action	Begin Date	End Date
Implement livestock BMPs and Plans. Water Quality / Riparian / Salmon Habitat	6/06	6/07
Riparian, Water Quality / CREP T/A	6/06	6/07
Meet with landowners along Willapa and Naselle River systems to eradicate Japanese Knotweed, which is listed as a State Noxious Weed. Riparian	6/06	6/07
Cooperative agreement with NRCS. Objective will be to assist NRCS with BMP implementation. The top priority will be to reduce the levels of pesticides detected in the Grayland ditch. Water Quality	6/06	6/07
The TA provided by the PCD will result in the development of individual farm plans.	5/06	5/07
Meet with Small Forest landowners to see if there is interest for the program and if there are additional partnerships that can be formed Forestry Assess	8/06	12/06
Provide Cost Share to newly formed forestry program	12/06	6/07
Culvert Replacement Project, Salmon/Water Quality	6/06	6/07
Salmon Restoration Project Salmon/Water Quality	6/06	6/07
WRIA #24 LE Coordinators Position / Salmon Recovery for Willapa Bay, Planning-Imp	6/06	6/07
Meet with Oyster growers to see if there are additional partnerships that can be formed.	5/06	5/07
Special County Assessment /Continued attempts have failed but this assessment is crucial to the citizens of this County to assure locally driven projects can be implemented	6/06	6/07

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

