



5-Year Plan (2010 to 2015) **Eastern Klickitat Conservation District**

For More Information Contact: Jim Hill, Mgr (509) 773-5823, klickcon@gorge.net



Organization of Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

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

- Established in 1943, EKCD has a positive 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 and change, we have adopted new technology to provide the best in conservation to our cooperators.

Function of Eastern 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.

We Serve & Why

- Landowners, users of natural resources, individuals & organizations interested in natural resource issues within EKCD.
- EKCD has a legal responsibility under 89.08
- We are the most effective conduit and buffer for federal and state programs to the local level
- We are the most effective agency to help people achieve their resource conservation goals

Mission of Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

The mission of the Eastern Klickitat Conservation District is to improve, conserve, and promote the wise use of natural resources by providing technical, financial, educational, and research assistance for landowners, users of natural resources, individuals & organizations interested in natural resource issues within EKCD.

Vision of Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

- By 2015 EKCD will have established a reliable, stable source of income
- By January 2015 livestock grazing in Lower Rock Creek Basin will be improved
- By 2015 EKCD will be in a building of our own along with partners
- By Jan 2011 the Eastern Klickitat CD will have provided the opportunity for land owners, visitors, and operators to visit our office and learn more of what we do
- By 2012 EKCD will be on equal footing with EPA on water quality and land use issues – Conservation districts have a better insight for local concerns than bureaucracies located somewhere else
- Promote better more efficient agricultural practices including precision ag
- Promote wildlife habitat by encouraging habitat improvements through cost share programs

Values of Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

We believe in:

- Grass roots conservation efforts
- Wise use of natural resources
- Cooperative, incentive based programs
- Assisting landowners in being proactive with natural resource issues
- Helping landowners comply with regulatory conservation efforts
- Partnership agreements with governmental agencies
- Good conservation

- Treating everyone equitably and in a positive manner
- Being frugal with funds
- Not being intrusive on private land rights
- 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
- Use of natural resources wisely for a living and income
- Locally led conservation
- Not being a regulatory agency – nor do we intend to be

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

1. Wind erosion (including CRP ground coming out)
 - By 2015, land managers will have practices in place to control wind erosion on cropland to prevent transportation hazards and events exceeding air quality standards
2. Water Quality & Salmonids Recovery (stream bank restoration)
 - By 2015, Rock Creek will have a completed management plan in place and have implementation of the plan treatments on 10% of the watershed area
 - By 2011, EKCD will evaluate and prioritize other watershed areas for watershed planning and implementation activities
3. Range & Forest Management
 - By 2015, 50% of the grazing and forest lands will be managed under a conservation plan
4. Animal Feeding Operations and Confined Animal Feeding Operations
 - By 2012 provide information to all livestock operations in EKCD regarding AFO/CAFO regulations leading to working with livestock organizations and individual cattlemen in the county for implementation strategies, CD staff gear up to assist livestock operators with their nutrient management plan as required
5. Noxious Weeds Management
 - By 2011, reduce noxious weeds in CRP lands by 90% and management plans implemented to maintain noxious weeds reduction
6. Information – Education
 - By 2012 reach 80% of EKCD population with information about services available through EKCD
7. District Operations
 - By 2015, have our own building, full quorums at every meeting, stable funding, fully staffed for workload
 - By 2012 have MOA's in place as needed and be proactive in communicating with government agencies.

Currently in Eastern Klickitat CD we are doing several things to promote conservation. We have a few streams on the 303(d) list for which we are seeking improvement projects. The conversion to no-till and direct seed farming is rapidly expanding in the district. EKCD cost shares for the planting of permanent cover (native grasses) after a crop/fallow rotation. EKCD has a cost share policy for the purchase of precision ag equipment. In an effort to promote wildlife in the District EKCD has developed a cost share policy for the implementation of wildlife habitat BMPs. Rock Creek has a coordinated resource management (CRM) group working toward a management plan for the Rock Creek watershed. This effort by local landowners with the cooperation of EKCD and NRCS will be beneficial as Dept of Ecology works toward a Management Plan in WRIA 31. We anticipate active participation once the management plan is finalized. EKCD will play a major role in implementing projects on Rock Creek and other watersheds in the District at that time.

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)

1. Eastern edge of EKCD – low rainfall 8” and under area
2. Rock Creek watershed
3. Alder Creek watershed

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

Goal: By 2012 reach 80% of EKCD population with information about services available through EKCD

Goal: By Jan 2012 100% of land managers will have understanding of NRCS and District programs sufficient to implement practices and be eligible for participation

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

Goal: By 2015, have our own building, full quorums at every meeting, stable funding, fully staffed for workload.

Strategies: talk with agency partners to see who can move with us, identify potential location, research funding options, get creative with space usage

Begin talks with County Commissioners about a building housing all agriculture related agencies

Trends Impacting Conservation in Eastern Klickitat Conservation District

- More landowners moving toward federal funding rather than conservation district programs -not wanting to lose our relevancy
 - Change to no-till from summer fallow
 - Smaller tracts of land – people moving to rural areas
 - Fewer active farmers (full time)
 - Change in attitudes from commodity payments to conservation payments
 - Shift towards sub-basin planning, outside forces that the conservation districts have no control over
 - Lack of understanding of what the conservation district can do for Eastern landowners
 - Legislation proposed in state to reduce the penalties on open-space removal causing larger tracts to be broken into smaller tracts
 - Project opportunities are decreasing due more to lack of communication rather than lack of projects
 - Increased competition for funding sources
 - Increasing trend toward livestock issues and regulations – AFO/CAFO
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Strategies to Address Trends

- By 2015 have established a reliable, stable source of income
 - By January 2010 livestock grazing in Lower Rock Creek Basin will be improved
 - By 2015 the districts will be in a building of their own along with partners
 - By Jan 2009 the Eastern Klickitat CD will have provided the opportunity for land owners, visitors, and operators to visit our office and learn more of what we do
 - By 2010 the CDs will be on equal footing with EPA on water quality and land use issues – districts have better local insight than State or Federal bureaucracies
 - Continuation of NRCS programs – aid producers in signing up
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Staffing Needs

- District Manager
 - Administrative Assistant
 - Technical Position #1 – water quality
 - Engineer
 - Engineer Assistant
 - [Technical Position #2 – generalist](#)
 - [Information – Education \(part time or include in Tech position #2 or Admin Ass't\)](#)
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Annual Budget Needs

Admin Supplies	\$3,400	
Fuel	\$2,400	
Professional Svcs	\$1,500	
Communications	\$750	
Travel Expenses	\$500	
Election Advert	\$120	
Rentals		
Insurance	\$3,550	
Dues & Registration	\$4,000	
Equip Purchase	\$900	
Contracted Services	\$75,000	
General Supplies	\$5,500	
Fuel	\$1,200	
Gen'l Ops Goods for Sale	\$10,200	
Travel	\$500	
General Advert	\$500	
Repairs	\$650	
Non-Expenditures		
State Sales Tax	\$750	
Other Non-Expenditures	\$16,000	
Cost Share/Projects	\$10,880	
Cost Share	\$35,500	
		\$173,800
TOTAL EXPENSES:		

Key Decision Makers

- Governor
- President
- Each Supervisor
- 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

Priority Actions – 12 Months

Action: Wind erosion (including CRP ground coming out) Goal: By 2015, land managers will have practices in place to control wind erosion on cropland to prevent transportation hazards and events exceeding air quality standards	Begin Date	End Date
1. Contact Ecology and Benton CD for air quality data	07/01/10	12/31/13
2. Identify land owners in the effected area	07/01/10	06/31/13
3. Team up with Benton CD on information-education activities	07/01/10	12/31/13
4. Utilize cost share to help producers access precision ag equipment	07/01/10	06/30/15

<p>Action: Water Quality & Salmonids Recovery (stream bank restoration) Goal: By 2012, Squaw Creek will have a completed management plan in place for all willing landowners and have implementation of the plan treatments on 10% of the sub-watershed area</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request NRCS update at each monthly meeting 2. Assist Rock Creek group in locating funding for planning and implementation 3. Assist landowners in identifying projects in the Squaw Creek watershed 	07/01/10 06/30/08 07/01/10	06/30/12 06/30/12 06/30/12
<p>Action: Water Quality & Salmonids Recovery (stream bank restoration) Goal: By 2011, EKCD will evaluate and prioritize other watershed areas for watershed planning and implementation activities, work with WRIA 31 Planning Unit for prioritization and evaluation funding and assistance</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect existing watershed data 2. Prioritize sub-watersheds 3. Select priority watershed in cooperation with WRIA 31 Planning Unit 4. Develop management plan in conjunction with WRIA 31 Planning Unit 	Ongoing 07/01/10 10/15/10 07/01/10	10/15/10 06/30/12
<p>Action: Range & Forest Management Goal: By 2010, 50% of the grazing and forest lands will be managed under a conservation plan</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speakers at Annual meetings that address grazing and forest practices 2. Identify and target relevant land managers 3. Hold workshops that focus individually on grazing and forestry management 	02/08/10 02/08/10	 12/31/12 10/31/12
<p>Action: Animal Feeding Operations and Confined Animal Feeding Operations Goal: By 2012 provide information to all livestock operations in EKCD regarding AFO/CAFO regulations leading to working with livestock organizations in the county for implementation strategies, CD staff gear up to assist livestock operators with their nutrient management plan Goal: By January 2012 100% of livestock operators (in place with permit requirements) will comply with AFO/CAFO regulations</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate CD personnel in AFO/CAFO program activities 2. Do on-site visits as requested by the land managers 3. Hold educational event at annual meeting 	07/01/10 07/01/10 02/08/10	06/31/10 ongoing
<p>Action: Noxious Weeds Management Goal: By 2010, reduce noxious weeds in CRP lands by 90% and management plans implemented to maintain noxious weeds reduction</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invite County Weed Supervisor to board meetings 2. County Weed Supervisor speak at Annual meeting on weed control measure 3. Reminders of noxious weeds, with measures for control in district newsletter 	07/01/10 02/08/10 quarterly	06/30/15
<p>Action: Information Education Goal: By 2010 reach 80% of EKCD population with information about services available through EKCD Goal: By Jan 2012 100% of land managers will have understanding of NRCS and District programs sufficient to implement practices and be eligible for participation</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify land managers 2. Hold Public meetings, Informational mailings possibly using FSA listings to educate land managers on EQIP and other programs. 	02/01/10 07/01/10 03/01/10	04/01/11 ongoing 10/31/12
<p>Action: District Operations Goal: By 2015, have our own building, full quorums at every meeting, stable funding, fully staffed for workload.</p>	Begin Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk with partners about potential of moving offices 	07/01/10	12/31/10

2. Locate potential real estate	07/01/10	06/31/10
3. Investigate funding sources through economic development, County resources	07/01/10	06/31/10
4. Identify floor plan and secure funding	06/30/10	06/30/15

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

