



5-Year Plan (2010 to 2014) Ferry Conservation District

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Organization of the Ferry Conservation District

A public subdivision of the State of Washington – authorities, powers and structure contained in RCW 89.08. Ferry Conservation District began in 1947 as the Curlew Conservation District. After, it consolidated with South Ferry to form the Ferry Conservation District.

▪ Natural Resources Inventory:

Total Private Lands	298,340 acres
Federal Lands	493,152 acres
State Lands	29,735 acres
County Lands	7,982 acres
Tribal and Allocated lands	605,759 acres
Total Land in District	1,434,878 acres

Source: Ferry County Planning Commission

Private Land Break Down:

Timber	132,448 acres
Range	128,000 acres
Cropland	30,000 acres
Roads and towns	7,892 acres
Total Private Land	298,340 acres

Function of the Ferry 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 natural resources.

Who We Serve & Why

We serve the people to help manage the natural resources of Ferry County for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mission of the Ferry Conservation District

To support sustainable rural lifestyles, local businesses, and a healthy environment through the conservation of renewable natural resources.

Vision of the Ferry Conservation District

To be the lead entity in the community for the application of conservation practices.

Values of the Ferry Conservation District

- Committed to the improvement of natural resources
- Promote the sustainable use of natural resources
- Collaborative partnerships
- Fairness in decision making
- Development of meaningful and achievable projects
- Honesty and integrity in all dealings
- Educated and informed programs and services
- Follow through on our commitments
- Respectful and courteous relations with all clients, board members, and staff
- Passion for and commitment to healthy, viable, and sustainable natural resource management

Natural Resource Priorities, Goals and Strategies:

1. Clean lakes, streams, and watersheds

By the end of 2011, install 5 miles of riparian fencing along the Kettle River. (In Progress)

- ♦ Through direct or indirect contact reach all landowners along the Kettle River.
- ♦ Contract with at least 10 landowners to complete the fencing.

By the end of 2011, assess the water quality of Curlew Lake. (In Progress)

- ♦ Begin a comprehensive water quality monitoring program on Curlew Lake.
- ♦ Analyze the data and develop a plan to address water quality issues that are identified.

Work with 2 landowners per year over the next 5 years on stream bank stabilization on the San Poil.

- ♦ Through direct or indirect contact reach all landowners along the San Poil River.
- ♦ Use Farm Plan Implementation funding to target projects along the San Poil River.
- ♦ Contract with at least 10 landowners to complete stream bank stabilization.

Establish off-stream stock/wildlife watering facilities with 2 landowners per year over the next 5 years.

- ♦ Through direct or indirect contact reach all livestock owners.
- ♦ Contract with at least 10 landowners to complete off-stream watering facilities.

2. Conservation Easements

By the end of 2011, gain better understanding of conservation easements.

- ♦ Coordinate with the Office of Farmland Preservation and WSU to develop a workshop on conservation easements.
- ♦ Invite individuals with easement experience from appropriate agencies to speak to the board.
- ♦ Identify and contact existing easement holders.

By the end of 2011, the district board will visit an existing conservation easement to gain information for the formation of a policy.

- ♦ Find nearby conservation easements and arrange for a site visit.
- ♦ Develop a district conservation easement policy.

Farmland Preservation

By the end of 2011, have at least 2 field tours for school age youth addressing farmland preservation.

- ♦ Identify a nearby farm/ranch to host a field tour.
- ♦ Coordinate with local schools, educators and youth leaders to schedule field trips.

By 2012, target 10 large agricultural operators with at least 100 acres for cost share assistance.

- ♦ Identify large agricultural operators through cooperation with WSU Extension, North Ferry Enterprise, and the Homesteader's Group.
- ♦ Through direct contact, reach 10 large agricultural operators and develop projects.

Organic Farming

Encourage/Promote Organic Farming practices and techniques.

- ♦ Provide an article to the Ferry County View
- ♦ Attend training on Organic Farming as it becomes available

3. Conservation Education

By the end of 2012, collaborate with the Water Conservancy Board to contact water right holders and provide them with information about water rights issues.

- ◆ Obtain a current list of water right holders.
- ◆ Provide a pamphlet regarding water right holders.

By the end of 2012, develop a conservation curriculum for local school age youth.

- ◆ Find and develop a curriculum.
- ◆ Present possible curriculums to the superintendent.
- ◆ Invite a local educator to be involved with the district.

By 2012, continue developing a nature education trail and a historical marker on the Herron Creek property.

- ◆ Partner with Ducks Unlimited.
- ◆ Contact Okanogan County Historical Society to find funding for signs and historical markers.

By 2012, provide Nutrient Management education to 75% of small acreage landowners.

- ◆ Develop a list of small acreage landowners and contact them.
- ◆ Provide a workshop and tour.
- ◆ In an effort to obtain funding, communicate nutrient management concerns in Ferry County with the Conservation Commission and WACD.

By 2013, coordinate on 5 projects with WSU Ferry County Extension.

- ◆ Continue to communicate and improve cooperation with WSU Extension.
- ◆ Share long range plan with Dan Fagerlie, WSU Extension Director.

4. Forest Health

By the end of 2012, develop district capability to assist private landowners with forest management plans when other similar resources may not be available.

- ◆ Find funding to send district staff to training.
- ◆ Conduct public outreach to inform them of the available service.

By the end of 2012, develop a bio-fuels project to reduce fuel loading in the forest and to reduce dependence on outside fuels sources.

- ◆ Research other bio-fuel developments around the state.
- ◆ Secure a sustainable fuel source.
- ◆ Coordinate with USFS, PUD, RC&D, and schools to develop the project.

By the end of 2012, assist at least 20 landowners with firewise inventories and management plans.

- ◆ Show and tell the landowners what kind of a plan the district has to offer.
- ◆ Develop a pamphlet for the county planning department to distribute to new land/homeowners.
- ◆ Continue seeking additional funding for firewise assessment promotion.
- ◆ Notify landowners that the district is providing the service, pending additional funding.

5. Land Use Practices

By the end of 2014, provide cost share to 20 landowners for grass and wildflower seed mixtures for erosion control, wildlife, natural pollinators, pasture improvement and weed competition.

- ◆ Collaborate with NRCS, WDFW, WSU and Weed Board.
- ◆ Notify landowners that a program is available.

By the end of 2012, provide 10 irrigators with technical assistance and cost share assistance.

- ◆ Identify irrigators in the district.
- ◆ Coordinate with PUD, Conservation Commission, Department of Ecology, NRCS, and RC&D on funding assistance.

By the end of 2013, partner with wildlife organizations to improve wildlife habitat and obtain cost share.

- ◆ Identify 2 potential projects for wildlife habitat improvement.
- ◆ Invite NRCS, WDFW, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and others to work on collaborative projects.

Continue to maintain the Native Plant Nursery on the Herron Creek Property.

- ◆ Use stock from the nursery as a source of low-cost plant materials for conservation projects.
- ◆ Whenever possible, sell stock from our own nursery at the Spring Plant Sale.
- ◆ Continue to seek funding to make the nursery a better and more useful facility.

Continue practices that we are currently supporting.

- ◆ Review annual and long range plans at least quarterly.
- ◆ Review annual and long range plans prior to awarding cost share.

Critical Geographic Areas:

- Kettle River Valley and watershed
- Curlew Lake/Curlew Valley
- San Poil River Valley and watershed

District Operations Priorities, Goals:

- Annually complete staff reviews during the 4th quarter each calendar year.
- Update the Board of County Commissioners on district activities at least annually.
- By the end of 2010, conduct one or more board and staff team building activities.
- By the end of 2011, the district will implement a special assessment.
- By the end of 2012, develop supervisor and employee training plans for initial and continuing education.
- By the end of 2012, develop an annual meeting event in cooperation with another agency.
- Continue to improve operations related to accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, supervisor elections and appointments, and annual reporting.
- By the end of 2010, develop cooperative projects with Okanogan CD, Stevens County CD, and Colville Confederated Tribes.
- By the end of 2010, implement disaster recovery plans and procedures to include protection of key files and records.
- Continue to work toward increasing operational budget as feasible.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Ferry Conservation District

- 14 Increase in numbers of smaller property holders
- 15 More domestic animals on smaller land parcels
- 16 Prioritization of water quantity – water rights
- 17 Need for recreational opportunities
- 18 Need for alternative funding sources
- 19 Increased reallocation of resources to administrative requirements
- 20 Increased interest in sustainable living
- 21 Reduced funding for water quality improvement projects
- 22 Need for greater awareness and education
- 23 Increase in riparian habitat landowners
- 24 Increased need for collaborative partnerships with other conservation districts and agencies
- 25 Increasing organic farming and gardening

Strategies to Address Trends

- 26 Increase education effort through continuation of newsletter
- 27 Increase amount of financial assistance available to landowners
- 28 Provide more technical assistance to landowners
- 29 Raise awareness of conservation issues with local, county and statewide elected officials
- 30 Stay informed of new technologies and research through improved employee training programs
- 31 Increase coordinated efforts on services and seminars with WSU Ferry County Extension
- 32 Coordinate task groups addressing local resource issues
- 33 Create or acquire GIS data that characterizes riparian habitat conditions
- 34 Research and pursue alternative funding sources
- 35 Sponsor group project proposals with other districts
- 36 Advocate for water right holders in the face of changing water use patterns
- 37 Find the means to develop District property for non-motorized recreational use and eventually connect to the Rail Trail
- 38 Work with local officials and groups to develop recreational opportunities
- 39 Improve office and program administration to increase efficiency and accuracy
- 40 Elicit community feedback on interests related to sustainable living
- 41 Develop programs to address areas of interest in sustainable living practices
- 42 Develop a database of landowners and resource concerns
- 43 Develop a database of natural resource articles for the newsletter
- 44 Pursue contribution agreements with agencies such as NRCS

Staffing Needs

- 45 Maintain one full time District Administrator/Manager to oversee, facilitate and coordinate District operations
- 46 Maintain one full time Water Quality Specialist to administer water quality programs
- 47 Maintain one full time Financial Administrator
- 48 One full time Natural Resource Specialist to administer the District's technical programs
- 49 One full time Education/Funding Coordinator to develop outreach programs and funding opportunities
- 50 One full time Funding Source Coordinator/Grant Writer
- 51 One part time Technical Assistant to develop and maintain District properties
- 52 One part time Secretary to assist with secretarial and administrative needs

Annual Budget Needs

The annual operating budget will need to increase each year by 10% as follows:

- FY 2009 Budget Total \$255,745
- FY 2010 Budget Total \$281,320
- FY 2011 Budget Total \$309,452
- FY 2012 Budget Total \$340,397
- FY 2013 Budget Total \$374,437
- FY 2014 Budget Total \$411,811

Key Partners and Stakeholders

- Citizens of Ferry County
- Board of Supervisors and staff
- Ferry County Commissioners
- NRCS Management Team
- NE Area Association / WACD
- WSU Ferry County Extension Office
- Conservation Commission
- Republic School District Superintendents
- Curlew Lake State Park Ranger
- Curlew Job Corps Center
- Curlew Lake Association
- Kettle River Advisory Board
- Conservation Northwest
- Kinross Gold
- Ferry County and WA State Cattleman's Association
- Agricultural leaders
- 4-H
- Bordering conservation districts
- Colville Tribal Resource Managers
- State legislators and governor
- Ranger District – USFS
- State Representatives
- Weed Board
- Department of Ecology
- WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Wildlife Organizations
- RC & D
- NE WA Forestry Coalition
- North Ferry Enterprise
- Chamber of Commerce
- Others as needed

For Page 7, find the Excel file named: Strategic LRP Priority Action List

