



5-Year Plan (2006 to 2011)

Grays Harbor Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Terry Nielsen @ (360 249-5980) or graysharborcd@wa.nacdnet.org

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

- ❖ In 1939, the State Soil Conservation District Law was passed by the Washington State Legislature. On June 21, 1940, the Montesano-Elma-Oakville Soil Conservation District was confirmed by Secretary of State Belle Reeves thus creating the second Conservation District in Washington State. On January 8, 1952, the Montesano-Elma-Oakville Soil Conservation District application for change of name amendment to Grays Harbor Soil Conservation District was certified by Secretary of State Earl Coe.

Function: To take 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. To collaborate with other local, State, and Federal entities to implement on the ground practices.

We Serve: The cooperators and natural resources within the boundaries of the Conservation District

Why: To improve, conserve, protect, and preserve our many natural resources to ensure the quality of life and the rural character of our county for future generations; to ensure the long term use of natural resources in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Grays Harbor Conservation District is to protect, conserve, and enhance the many natural resources in our District and to promote the implementation of environmental practices proven to meet these goals.

Values: The Grays Harbor Conservation District values its natural resources and landowners. We demonstrate this by valuing:

- ❖ Integrity and honesty
- ❖ Flexibility
- ❖ Service to those who voluntarily engage us
- ❖ Locally led, economically sustainable resource conservation
- ❖ On the ground, science based solutions
- ❖ Stewardship for our properties/resources
- ❖ Fiscal and public responsibility
- ❖ Sustainability – meaning the implementation of economically and environmentally sound and socially acceptable conservation practices

Critical Natural Resource Issues: (in priority order)

- ❖ Continue our participation with NRCS to provide input on future Farm Bill issues
- ❖ Continue to protect and conserve our agricultural land base by supporting the preservation of our current natural resource base from non-compatible conversions or encumbrances
- ❖ By 2011, complete fish passage/culvert survey
- ❖ By 2011, complete installation of approved fish passage facilities on identified high priority areas
- ❖ By 2015, complete installation of approved fish passage facilities on all identified areas
- ❖ By 2011, complete a joint operation with G. H. Noxious Weed Board to identify areas impacted by

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Worksheet adapted from NACD publication

infestations of noxious water weeds

- ❖ By 2011, eliminate pesticide contaminant of surface water from applications
- ❖ By 2011, have a LNMP for 50% of non-dairy livestock producers
- ❖ By 2007, define GHCD responsibilities within the Chehalis River TMDL Detailed Implementation Plan for the Chehalis Basin Watershed Plan with Chehalis Basin Partnership

Critical Geographic Areas: (attached map)



Information – Education Priorities and Goals

- ❖ By 2008, reach 50% of non-dairy livestock producers for self assessment
- ❖ By 2010, attend Grays Harbor County Fair of public outreach

District Operations Priorities and Goals:

- ❖ By 2010, the GHCD will have the staff and programs in place to meet the needs of all District landowners and resource users. We will maintain the reputation this District has earned for being a locally led problem solving group. We will strive to remain on the leading edge of conservation issues within our District. We will continue to recruit quality supervisors.

Trends Impacting Conservation in Grays Harbor Conservation District

- ❖ Increased development
- ❖ Increased population with decreasing lot sizes
- ❖ Increased regulatory pressure
- ❖ Increased demand for water supply
- ❖ Increasing operational costs for agricultural producers
- ❖ More land owners with less or no practical experience
- ❖ Economic base in the county is moving away from agriculture

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Strategies to Address Trends:

- ❖ Increased involvement with county government to effect growth and regulations affecting resource issues
- ❖ Continue to act as a buffer between regulatory agencies and individual landowners
- ❖ Continue to act as a clearing house for conservation technical and financial assistance programs for landowners
- ❖ Strive to promote small acre management by providing technical and financial assistance as funding allows

Staffing Needs:

Office Manager	Dairy Technician
Contracted Dairy Planner	Contracted CREP Coordinator
Contracted Grant Writer	

Key Decision Makers:

The first and foremost key decision maker is the landowner or land manager. The management decisions they make on a daily basis affect the condition of natural resources. The second key decision makers are the volunteers who serve on our Board of Supervisors. Other key decision makers include :

- ❖ U. S. President
- ❖ U. S. Senators
- ❖ U. S. Representatives
- ❖ Washington State Governor
- ❖ Washington State Senators
- ❖ Washington State Representative
- ❖ Washington State Conservation Commission

Key advisors include but are not limited to:

- ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❖ Grays Harbor County Commissioners
- ❖ Washington State Agencies/WSDA, WDFW, DNR, Ecology, etc.
- ❖ Farm Services Agency
- ❖ U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ❖ Environmental Protection Agency

Priority Actions – 12 Months

Action	Begin Date	End Date
❖ Seek outside funding sources to implement Natural Resources Priorities and Goals	Jan. 1, 2006	Dec. 31, 2006
❖ Establish a working relationship with Noxious Weed Board for identification or eradication of noxious weeds (funding dependent)	Jan. 1, 2006	Dec. 31, 2006
❖ Continue to review and respond to permitting processes	Jan. 1, 2006	Dec. 31, 2006

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continue to provide technical assistance to cranberry producers to install BMP to reduce pesticides in surface waters ❖ Provide technical assistance for no less than 3 LNMP's and (if available) cost share to non-dairy livestock producers to install needed BMP's ❖ Determine the effectiveness of our support of NRCS Wetland Reserve Program Chehalis Emphasis Area ❖ Provide funding for attendance at NRCS State Technical Advisory Committee and Local Work Group as requested ❖ Monthly attendance at Chehalis Basin Partnership TMDL DIP meetings 	<p>2006</p> <p>Jan. 1, 2006</p>	<p>2006</p> <p>Dec. 31, 2006</p> <p>Dec. 31, 2006</p> <p>Mar. 31, 2006</p> <p>June 30, 2006</p> <p>Dec. 31, 2006</p>