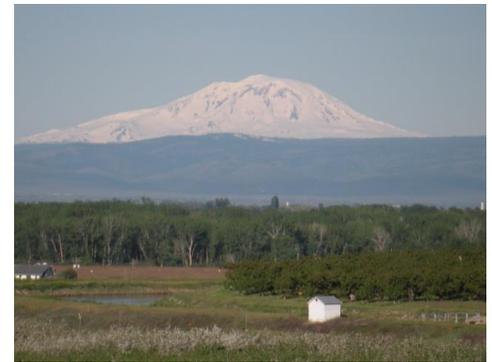




FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District

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Mission of the North Yakima Conservation District

- To enhance and promote the wise use of natural resources; promote sustainable, profitable agriculture; and improve the quality of life and culture in Yakima County by:
 - Encouraging good land stewardship through education, incentives, and quality technical assistance.
 - Support individual private property rights.
 - Building strong coalitions with other groups.
 - Including, but not limited to, government assistance as a valid conservation partner to agriculture, by providing quality, technical assistance to cooperators and partners.

Natural Resource Priorities

▪ Ag Preservation-Urban Interface-Land use planning

- **Natural resource priority description:** Address all “SWAPAH” related issues affected by development or changes in land use. Priority is to maintain current land uses by development of alternative options/programs while maintaining “working lands”.
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, Yakima County has identified Farmland Preservation as a priority, Washington State has programs that protect farm and ranch lands, Washington State Conservation Commission have the Office of Farmland Preservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has several programs dedicated to farm and ranch land protection. Many non-profits organizations operate in the state seeking to maintain farm and ranch lands. indicate supporting information:
- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** Observation of land use changes within the county and resulting natural resource impacts. Program development by local, state, federal and non-profit groups. Data and print information from these same groups.
- **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** NRCS, Washington State, Washington State Conservation Commission, Yakima County, and American Farmland Trust.

▪ Water Resources (Water Quality and Water Quantity)

- **Natural resource priority description:** Water Quality Degradation in NYCD water bodies and Water Quantity issues throughout NYCD and the Yakima River Basin
- **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, 303d list and multiple local, state and federal plans identify water quality issues. Many local, State and Federal plans identify the need for water conservation and storage including the “Yakima Basin Integrated Plan”. General field observations at the reach level and concerns raised by local landowners also support this resource priority.

- **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** NYCD's participation in and awareness of the above mentioned "planning" processes, 303d list, landowner observations
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** Washington State Department of Ecology, Yakama Nation, Bureau of Reclamation, Irrigation Districts, Yakima County, Commodity Groups, etc...
- **Fish and Wildlife**
 - **Natural resource priority description:** Many species of animals, fish, plants and their habitats are listed throughout the NYCD.
 - **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, there are several listings that are of a high priority including Steelhead and Sage Grouse. Other species that are of concern include Bull Trout and Pacific Lamprey. These species are of concern at the State, Federal and Tribal level throughout the Yakima River Basin.
 - **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** Federal and State listings, participation in planning forums, etc...
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** All effected partner entities such as NRCS, Forrest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation, etc...
- **Livestock Issues (AFO, CAO and DNP)**
 - **Natural resource priority description:** Livestock (including hobby farms) and the livestock industry are important to the economy and culture of NYCD. As such they represent important natural resource opportunities and issues that need voluntary assistance.
 - **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES Statewide the Dairy Nutrient Management Planning issue is of high concern. TMDL and Critical Area Protection (VSP process) "target" livestock issues.
 - **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** The current ECY Ag/Water Advisory Committee process, TMDL processes, Critical area concerns from local and State entities.
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** At this time only a few entities are engaged in the use of voluntary actions to protect natural resources from livestock use they include Conservation Districts, WSCC, WSU –Extension, Farm Bureau, Dairy Federation, Washington Cattlemen Association and other commodity groups, whereas there is a larger list of State, Federal and Tribal Nations promoting the use of regulatory actions and litigation to address the issue.
- **Forestry**
 - **Natural resource priority description:** Forest health is failing throughout the State and fuels loading issues are the major concern of fire risk within the NYCD.
 - **Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?** YES, the Department of Natural resources recently released reports of poor forest heath throughout the State, the Highway 410/12 CWPP identifies fuels loading as a major concern within that planning area making this a local, regional and State priority.
 - **Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:** DNR reports on forest health and the Highway 410/12 CWPP.
 - **Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Highway 410/12 planning group, US Forest Service, WSCC, Conservation Districts and local landowners.
- **Noxious Weeds and Pests.**
 - **Natural resource priority description:** Noxious weeds exist throughout the NYCD. Several pests severely impact the areas agricultural viability to produce quality products and to ship those products.

- ***Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?*** YES, Yakima County annually lists noxious weeds that impact landowners throughout the NYCD. Currently, Apple Maggot quarantines exist throughout the State and impact the entire Apple industry of the State.
- ***Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:*** Professional input from responsible entities.
- ***Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:*** WSU-Extension, Yakima County Horticultural Pest Control Board, Yakima County Weed Control Board, USDA-ARS, and Apple Commission.

- **Rangeland**

- ***Natural resource priority description:*** Shrub-Steppe habitats make up a large part of the working lands throughout the NYCD and are at risk of fire and conversion to non-compatible uses.
- ***Is this a state and or regional natural resource priority along with being a local priority?*** YES, Shrub-Steppe habitats are of concern at a local, State and Federal level due to conversion. Locally, fire risk has been identified as a major concern.
- ***Source of data relied upon to indicate the resource concern:*** Shrub-Steppe Conservation Plans.
- ***Other entities engaged in addressing this resource concern:*** Shrub-Steppe Partnership, Conservation Districts, Department of Defense, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Cattlemen and private landowners.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Ag preservation-Urban Interface-Land use Planning

Goal(s): By 2018, implementation of plan(s) and policies for land uses that strive to enhance agricultural use.

Funding Source(s): Bonneville Power Administration, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, NYCD assessment, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, US Department of Defense, RCO, Office of Farmland Preservation, Yakima County, WDFW, The Nature Conservancy, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy Washington State Conservation Commission.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Develop and Establish Conservation Easements on 4500 acres.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Two (2) contracts for CE's will be completed. Required MOA's and supporting plans, agreements, and contracts will be established.

Funding Source(s): NYCD assessment, WSCC, RCO and landowners.

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Implement the "Cowiche Basin Working Rangelands-phase 1" Project.	July 14 – June 15	Mike	40	\$476,420.00	Grant funded by 2010 grant
Implement the "Cowiche Basin Working Rangelands-phase 2" Project.	July 14 – June 15	Mike	40	\$2,001,310.00	Grant awarded – July 2013
Work with local, State and Federal legislative authorities and staff to share information, promote opportunities and leverage funding to meet the program goals.	July 14 – June 15	Board and Mike	15	\$6600.00	Program will address goals of Rangeland Priority also.
Work with resource agencies and staff to share information, promote opportunities and leverage funding to meet program goals.	July 14 – June 15	Board and Mike	15	\$6600.00	Program will address goals of Rangeland Priority also.
Work with landowners in the Cowiche, Wenas, Naches/Tieton and Ahtanum watersheds to achieve program goals	July 14 – June 15	Mike	15	\$6600.00	Program will address goals of Rangeland Priority also.
Develop FPP's for the Emerick Ranch, Lust Farm and Stevenson Farm	July 14 – June 15	Mike	40	\$17,600.00	Program will address goals of Rangeland Priority also.



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Water Resources (Water Quality and Water Quantity)

Goal(s): By 2018 identify water quality and quantity issues that will lead to implementation of corrective actions within NYCD and its Geographic priority watersheds.

Funding Source(s): Bonneville Power Administration, Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program, Conservation Commission Grant(s), YBF&WRB, NYCD Assessment, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Department of Ecology, Washington Water Trust, Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited, NRCS-AWEP, Bureau of Reclamation, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Reduce Stream Temperatures in Priority Watersheds

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Establish a District wide water quality Monitoring Program, Implement the Selah Ditch TMDL plan, and assist Yakima County in development of the VSP Plan.

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Implement the Beaver Dam Analog project – Wenas Creek (water quality and quantity)	July 14 – June 15	Brian	30	\$66,963.00	Project achieves multiple program goals.
Develop, fund and implement a Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County. (water quality)	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	30	\$13,200.00	Funds unsecured, model off of state funded VSP programs.
Develop, fund and implement a District wide Water Quality monitoring program. (water quality)	July 14 – June 15	staff	90	\$50,000.00	Funds unsecured. Equipment acquired.
Develop Natural Resource plans (farm plans) for landowners in priority watersheds. (multiple)	July 14 – June 15	Brian, Justin	50	\$18,400.00	Project achieves several program goals.
Work with local landowners, agencies and legislative authorities to achieve program goals in priority watersheds.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike, Justin	40	\$22,320.00	Look to Integrated plan for funding and partnerships
Implement the Lust / Stevenson Project.	July 14 – June 15	Brian, Justin	10	\$41,587.00	Project achieves several program goals, funding est. split accordingly.
Implement the Selah Ditch TMDL. (water quality)	July 14 – June 15	Brian	10	\$27,200.00	MOA in place, project underway at this time.



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Fish and Wildlife

Goal(s): By 2018 assist all affected landowners with compliance issues related to the Endangered Species Act and State requirements regarding fish species on lands within NYCD's Geographic Priority Areas and promote those successes with the public and regulatory entities

Funding Source(s): Conservation Commission Grant(s), BPA, YTHAP, USFW Service, BOR, RFEG, SRFB, NYCD, WSDOT, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Yakima County Flood Control Zone, WDFW Mitchell Act, Yakama Nation and NRCS.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Complete all Fish Screening and barrier needs in the Cowiche and Ahtanum Watersheds opening all fish passage access on private landownership.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Provide input into the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Establish the Yakima Tributary Habitat and Access Program for 2014-2018.

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop the Cowiche Siphon Project – Cowiche Creek	July 14 – June 15	Justin	20	\$3,200.00	
Cont. implementation of the “La Salle High School Riparian Enhancement” Project.	July 14 – June 15	Brian	20	\$32,680.00	
Cowiche Creek Railroad Bridge removal Project (Yakima Valley RR line #4 bridge)	July 14 – June 15	Justin	40	\$32,800.00	
Implement, update and develop elements of the on-going Yakima Tributary Habitat and Access Program.	July 14 – June 15	Mike, Justin, Brian	112	\$199,502.00	Only 9 months funding secured at this time.
Be actively involved in all aspects of fish and wildlife issues in Yakima County to ensure technical merit is used, district program is represented and landowners are represented.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	10	\$4400.00	
Develop riparian habitat and flood plain enhancement programs (Naches Side Channel, Fields/Morton).	July 14 – June 15	Justin, Brian	40	\$26,560.00	
Fulfill Coordinating Entity Role, use role in Sage Grouse Planning processes.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike.	10	\$4,400.00	



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Livestock Issues (AFO, CFO and DNP)

Goal(s): By 2018 develop programs and/or agreements to address livestock issues in NYCD Priority Watersheds.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Conservation Commission Category 2 and 3 Grants, State/Local VSP Funds, USDA – EQIP, DOE.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: unknown at this time

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Prepare and Implement 3 “farm plans”.

Funding Source(s):

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Develop, fund and implement a Voluntary Stewardship Program for Yakima County. (water quality)	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	30	\$13,200.00	Funds unsecured, model off of state funded VSP programs, split priorities.
Implement the Lust / Stevenson Project.	July 14 – June 15	Brian, Justin	10	\$41,587.00	Project achieves several program goals, funding est. split accordingly.
Develop DNMP for Wenas Landowner in partnership with South Yakima Conservation District.	July 14 – June 15	Mike	2	\$880.00	



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Forestry

Goal(s): By 2018 develop and implement program(s) to assist private forestry landowners and implement the Yakima County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (YCCWPP) and address forest health.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Conservation Commission Implementation Grant, DNR–National Fire Plan Grant, USDA - EQIP, and Firewise Program.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: reduce fuels loading to planned levels on 25% of all private lands within the 410/12 CWPP

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Conduct home assessments on 20 properties.

Funding Source(s):

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Cont. Implementation of the “National Fire Plan Grant, Highway 410/12 Community Wildfire Protection Plan”.	July 14 – June 15	Mike	15	\$27,069.00	Funding through December 2014.
Develop additional funds to implement Highway 410/12 CWPP.	July 14 – June 15	Mike	5	\$2200.00	
Assist in the development of other CWPP’s	July 14 – June 15	staff	10	\$4,400.00	



FY 2014 (7/1/13 – 6/30/14) Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Priority Program Area: Noxious Weeds and Pests

Goal(s): By 2018 develop an integrated pest management program and participate in the Coordinated Weed Management Area process.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Yakima County Weed Control Board, Yakima County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board, WSU Extension, USDA-ARS Yakima County FCZD and Washington Department of Agriculture.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Remove the Apple Maggot quarantine on 1000 acres of orchard.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Assist in the implementation of the research program of the proposed “Apple Maggot Host Elimination” Project

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Secure funding and implement the “Apple Maggot Host Elimination” project	July 14 – June 15	Mike	20	\$95,335.00	Funding unsecured at this time, award in September 14.
Work with Yakima County Weed Control Board to create programs that address common goals.	July 14 – June 15	staff	2	\$880.00	
Work with Yakima County FCZD to address “Crack Willow” issues (identified as a noxious weed but impacts flooding issues)	July 14 – June 15	Mike, Brian	20	\$20,000.00	MOA in place with YC-FCZD.
Place emphasis on additional “beneficial pollinators” in all planning and implementation efforts.	July 14 – June 15	staff	5	\$1,500.00	



FY 2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan XYZ Conservation District



Program Area: Rangeland

Goal(s): By 2018 develop a Rangeland program within NYCD Priority Watersheds.

Funding Source(s): NYCD Assessment, Washington State Conservation Commission, DNR.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective: Protect 3000 acres from rangeland fire threats.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Finish NYCD's Coordinating Entity Plan.

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Assist in implementation of Firewise related programs for protection of landowners and Rangeland landscapes.	July 14 – June 15	Mike	5	\$2,200.00	Look towards partnering to start program
See Ag preservation-Urban Interface-Land use Planning Natural Resource Priority Section					



FY 2015 Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



District Program Area: Information and Education

Goal(s): By 2018, increase the knowledge, understanding and awareness of District priorities, programs and actions with all landowners in the District and our partners.

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective: Reach all assessed landowners with NYCD Newsletter (15,000), through school education programs provide curriculum and educate over 5000 students.

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Continue Program that implements a K-12 curriculum and supports programs like Water on Wheels, Wheat Week and Salmon in the Classroom.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	4	\$25,000.00	Partnership with FCD.
Contact all landowners via NYCD newsletter to inform and educate about District programs, activities and items of interest.	July 14 – June 15	staff	2	\$2500.00	Bi-Annually
Maintain NYCD website	July 14 – June 15	staff	5	\$6,000.00	As needed
Integrate education into each NYCD project/program as appropriate and applicable.	July 14 – June 15	staff			As needed
Promote the Conservation District ideals and functions; i.e. “conserve, protect and enhance natural resource through the use of Best Management Practices (BMP’s)”, “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 user for conservation of soil, water and related resources”, etc...	July 14 – June 15	Board, staff			As needed



FY 2015 Annual Work Plan North Yakima Conservation District



District Program Area: District Operations

Goal(s): Maintain, expand and provide effective Natural Resource Conservation programs in an efficient, legal and fiscally responsible manner.

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Conduct and complete all District operations, Financial operations and Administrative responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner consistent with all applicable guidelines and policies set forth.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Staff	20	\$12,000.00	As needed
Provide training opportunities for staff and Board.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Staff			As needed
Maintain a physical presence in all applicable forums of natural resources that may pertain to the NYCD plan(s).	July 14 – June 15	Board, Staff			As needed
Participate in WACD and WSCC activities related to NYCD priorities and/or programs.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Staff			As needed
Prepare local "Rates and Charges Program".	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	10	\$4400.00	As needed
Develop natural resource inventory for NYCD	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	10	\$4400.00	As needed
Develop, maintain and honor MOA's MOU's	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	4	\$1760.00	As needed
Develop a financial plan with special effort on NYCD Building plan.	July 14 – June 15	Board, Mike	5	\$2200.00	As needed
Conduct annual plant sale(s)	July 14 – June 15	staff	15	\$5760.00	As needed



FY2015 Annual Budget XYZ Conservation District

At this time NYCD's Annual Budget is based on many factors that include:

- **Zero Based Budgeting principals**
- **“soft funding” grant sources (annual, bi-annual)**
- **Revolving MOA/MOU budget inputs**
- **4 fiscal years (State, Federal, Calendar and policy from funding source)**
- **Available Assessment funds**
- **donations**

Individual Program/Project budgets are available for review.