



5-Year Plan (2013 to 2018) Lincoln County Conservation District

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Organization of the Lincoln County Conservation District

A political sub-division of the State of Washington with authorities and structure outlined in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 89.08

Function of the Lincoln County 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

- **Citizens of Lincoln County** – *to educate and help them protect and enhance the natural base in the county and beyond, responsibility to our patrons/land owners and users, and our purpose, authorization and passion to serve*
- **Future Generations** – *to preserve, protect, and enhance natural resources today so they are available to future generations*
- **Visitors and People Throughout World** – *because SWAPA does not stop at our boundaries, people come to our county to recreate, and the quality of life including water, air and related natural resources are not degraded in Lincoln County*

Mission of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- It is our intent to conserve and enhance Lincoln County's natural resource base. We believe conservation programs shall be economically feasible and socially acceptable. It is our intent to promote an integrated management philosophy of education, research and application to protect and enhance the quality of the natural and human environment.

Vision of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- *To help protect, conserve and enhance natural resources.*

Values of the Lincoln County Conservation District

- We value honesty, integrity, compassion, and fairness in all we do
- We value conserving, protecting and enhancing our natural resources for current and future generations
- We value helping the people we serve with their natural resource issues
- We value helping the general public
- We value being financially responsible

Natural Resource Data & Information:

- The West Palouse Local Work Group provides input in NRCS. The LWG reviews natural resource data, identifies natural resource priorities by land use and resource concerns, priority treatment watershed, conservation practices, and systems to treat resource concerns, treatment areas by land use and resource concern, ranking questions and funding pools for Farm Bill Programs.

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Resource Concern</u>
Crop	Soil Erosion-sheet, rill & wind
Crop, Range	Insufficient Water-Inefficient Use of Irrigation
Range. Crop, Forest	Degraded Plant Condition-Undesirable Plant, Wildlife Hazard, Productivity & Health
Other Associated Ag	Water Quality Degradation- Excess Pathogens & Chemicals from Manure,

Criteria for Selecting Conservation Priorities:

- The cost and having personnel available to address the need.
 - Who pays the bill for the need?
 - Locally wanted and needed.
 - Available funding sources to address the need (local, state, federal and/or private)
 - Biggest bang for the buck.
 - Time required accomplishing.
 - Number of district residents impacted
 - Acres treated and-area of the district impacted
 - Socially acceptable
 - Economically feasible
 - Feasibility of addressing the need
 - Resource sustainability
 - Amount of rainfall, soil type, frost zone of the area.
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Priority Natural Resource Conservation Needs:

Highest Priorities

- Erosion: sheet & rill, wind, soil quality, tillage(SWAPA+H&E), construction, sustainability
Geographical area: cropland
- Water quality & quantity: lack of water, water storage, passive rehydration, energy, irrigation inefficiencies, water quality standards
Geographical area: Lincoln County

Medium Priorities

- Energy: energy audit for irrigation and dry land cropland, farmstead & renewable solar or windmill generated
Geographical area: Lincoln County
- Air quality: wind erosion, cropland, wildfire, livestock complaints, gravel roads
Geographical area: Lincoln County
- Urban & Rural Areas: Fire prevention, water quality & quantity, direct product marketing, youth outdoor education, riparian education, flood control, emergency preparedness
Geographical area: Lincoln County
- Forestry: fire prevention, forest health, erosion
Geographical area: forest area
- Plant conditions: weeds, weed mapping
Geographical area: Lincoln County
- Recreation areas use throughout Lincoln County
- Cultural Resource needs addressed throughout Lincoln County
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Lower Priorities (throughout Lincoln County)

- Rangeland: degraded from overgrazing, weeds
 - Need for plant materials by landowners: tree sales, wildlife, windbreak, program needs
 - Wildlife: habitat, management of fire and fuels to reduce wildfire risk to sage grouse
 - Emergencies: fire, wind, floods
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Information – Education & District Operations Priorities, Measures of Success, and Goals:

Education & Outreach Priorities:

- Research & test new innovative technology to establish what is workable for landowners
- Continue development & certification of staff and board supervisors

- Energy audits & irrigation efficiencies
- Water quality and conservation for youth
- Educational program
- Technology outreach (as avenue of education)
- Conservation technology (precision agriculture)
- Soil quality and soil organic matter
- Water quantity and water conservation and water storage
- Soil quality and sustainability
- Soil quality specifically targeted to landowners & landlords

District Operations & Innovation Ideas:

- Secure stable funding
- Develop idea of an Ag Service Center for Lincoln County (NRCS, FSA, weed board, WSU ext, 4H groups, community use & other services)
- Organize a 501C3
- Continue working with county agencies
- Bird identification and benches at Reardan Audubon Lake

Land Manager Needs:

- Adequate Cost share or Grants for Operators as well as owners
- Help in planning practices
- Easier computer accessibility rules, regulations & research data that applies to Lincoln County
- Help in keeping updated on rules and regulations
- Advocacy group to be a buffer between regulators and clients
- Mentor farmers program
- Economic and marketing data to prove that practices are feasible
- Natural resource information on demand
- To better understand programs that are available
- To better understand program requirements
- Improved communications between operators & landowners concerning natural resources & programs.
- Landowners need to better understand farming operations and economics
- Conservation planning
- Direct marketing help to sell products
- Recycling farm tires waste oil, plastics etc
- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures understanding of program requirements & the deadline
- Use of technology to make a living and to sustain and improve the land

Milestones, Timeline & Actions

Natural Resource Conservation (high priority only)	Measures of Success	Goal (by 2018)
Erosion	Acres and people involved, number of plans, organic matter measurements	-Erosion will be 15% reduced
Water quantity –source	Number of pilot projects	-There will be One functioning pilot project
water quality	General consensus of what is needed for general water quality, practices installed, and numbers educated	-People will say there are improved riparian corridors and improved water quality. -There will have been 25 practices implemented to address water quality. -At least 500 people will have been

		educated about water quality.
water quantity- Use	Practices installed Energy Audits completed Education program	-100 practices for water quantity will have been implemented. -25 audits will have been completed. - 6 water quantity programs.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices