



FY2014 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15) Annual Work Plan Whitman Conservation District

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Mission of the Whitman Conservation District

The Mission of the Whitman Conservation District is to promote the wise, ethical and sustainable use of natural resources by leadership in the education and assistance of all people in the District. The Whitman Conservation District will promote the implementation of the best available conservation measures and provide a forum for local input on natural resource issues.

Natural Resource Priorities

(see long range plan for data and information on natural resource priorities)

Water Quality

Livestock

Soil Quality

Quality of Life & Education

District Operations

Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Water Quality

Goal(s): Goal:

By June 2018 have a demonstrated increase in: participation by livestock operators to have a plan in place addressing water quality issues; riparian areas along streams managed efficiently, runoff from livestock feeding areas eliminated; increase awareness of CREP and CCRP programs to buffer waterways; reduction of most regulators' concerns in the District.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

- Controlling sediment loading to streams along 2 miles of stream/rivers
- Increase participation in monitoring for temperature, fecals and turbidity in district streams by 2 landowners

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- 6 producers with Conservation Plans completed (emphasis Big Alkali Creek)
- Water quality monitoring workshop(s)
- Landowners interested in alternatives to managing riparian areas for undesirable plant species on 2 farms with overall impact on 2,000 acres
- Increase interest in 5 Star Watershed Stewardship program and support as needed

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- Educate the public of the different types of pollutants contributed to streams/ivers from other than agriculture by using news media links, websites, face book, etc.
- Decrease in interest by regulating agencies and increased support by public for conservation program activities

Funding Source(s): WSCC Funding (Category 1, 2, 3), Cost-Share Grants, NRCS-CCRP, CREP, EQIP grants, RCO, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, WDFW, Elks Foundation, Bonneville Power Company

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Provide technical assistance for the implementation of Best Management Practices / Principles (3 cooperators)	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	18	\$3,782.88	\$26.27 composite rate
Develop and implement a producer-led water quality sampling, monitoring and management program for addressing non-point source water quality issues (3 Cooperators)	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	3	\$630.48	
Cooperate with WSU County Extension on land owner self-assessment, photo monitoring, and water testing	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	6	\$1,260.96	
Cost-Share for doing conservation practices with options identified through evaluation with the producer, implementation attached with education project. (7 practices)	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	30	\$6,304.80	Includes cost share (\$5,000)
Conservation planning assistance (3 cooperators)	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	15	\$3,152.40	
Shop Talk: Water quality testing training (preventive maintenance) and monitoring stream bank management (measuring disturbance), conservation planning, photo monitoring	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	10	\$2,101.60	
			82	\$17,233.12	

Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Livestock

Goal(s):

By June 2018 have a demonstrated increase in: Partnering with the 5 Star Watershed Stewardship program; collaborate with Whitman County Extension and Whitman County Cattlemen Association on grazing alternatives; increase public perception of the positive aspects of ranching on private and public land; increase the public awareness to the benefits of cohabitation for wildlife and livestock; increase awareness of best management practices by ranchers; reduce regulators' concerns in well managed livestock operations

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

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Programmatic Measurable Result Objectives:

- Increase awareness of 5 Star program for involvement by livestock operators
- 4 livestock producers to incorporate different grazing practices to increase production, and manage undesirable plant species in pastures and rangelands.
- Assist 2 producers with water quality monitoring practices
- Partner with Whitman County Extension, Whitman County Cattlemen Association, NRCS/FSA and Washington Fish and Wildlife doing an educational workshop on managed grazing systems and conservation system implementation on CRP and riparian areas
- Development of 2 grazing management plans including incorporating livestock practices with the CRP take out process
- Increase government and public awareness to the benefits of cohabitation of wildlife and livestock using media outlets (websites, face book, news media)
- Reduce regulators' concerns on well managed livestock operations

Funding Source(s): WSCC Funding (Category 1, 2, 3), Cost-Share Grants, NRCS-CCRP, CREP, EQIP grants

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Development of 3 livestock management plans	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	18	\$3,782.88	
Assist 2 producers with water quality monitoring program I promote the 5 Star organization	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	5	\$1,050.80	
Do an educational workshop with partners on managed grazing systems and conservation system implementation	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator & Supervisor	5	\$1,050.80	
Technical assistance and/or cost share with 4 livestock producers to incorporate different practices to increase production, and manage undesirable plant species in pastures and rangelands	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator & Supervisor	8	\$1,681.28	Includes cost share\$5,000.00
			36	\$7,565.76	

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Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Soil Quality

Goal(s):

By June 2018 have a demonstrated increase in: producers transitioning from a conventional tillage system to direct seed/mulch till system; promote cover crops as an alternative to chemical fallow, facilitating shop talks covering topics relating to cover crops to benefit soil health and weed suppression; increase public perception of the positive aspects of farming on private lands; alternatives to agriculture burning; alternatives for CRP takeout practices

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

- Improve soil health on 2,000 acres
- 2 practices implemented to reduce/eliminate use of chemical sprays and fertilizer to control undesirable pests (plants & insects)

Programmatic Measurable Result Objectives:

- Increase soil testing by producers to demonstrate improvements in soil health
- 2 producers involved in monitoring programs on sediment movement
- Continue education and research on alternative CRP takeout program
- Demonstrate to producers the benefits of planting multispecies cover crops by cost sharing on 2 acres planted to cover crops working with researchers on demonstration areas
- Educate the public on the benefits of growing their own food crops by sponsoring workshops, educational programs and shop talks
- Increase public participation in district supported programs
- Promote alternatives to burning residue (dormant season grazing, direct seed)

Funding Source(s): WSCC Funding (Category 1, 2, 3), Cost-Share Grants, NRCS-CCRP, CREP, EQIP grants

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Provide technical assistance and service for the Burn Permit Program including alternatives to burning stubble	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	14	\$2,942.24	
Provide technical assistance and/or cost share for the implementation of Best Management Practices/Principles	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	10	\$2,101.60	Includes cost share \$5,000.00
Negotiate and complete Technical Service Provider	7/14 –	Natural Resource	1Pending	\$ 210.16	

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Agreements with NRCS for Farm Bill program implementation for erosion control and reduction of sediment in district waterways (pending)	6/15	Coordinator			
Promote Soil Health Systems implementation including Shop talk	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator & Supervisors	5	\$1,050.80	
Precision Farming promotion coupled with conservation tillage (partner with local equipment dealers - JTI)	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator Supervisors	2	\$420.32	
No-Till, Direct Seed Cost-Share Mentoring Program Grant: Participate with another district	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	1	\$210.16	
Continue Agreement with Spokane Co CD for SRF Low Interest Loans	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	1	\$210.16	
CRP Takeout Options Workshop – show economics in various options, grazing, oil seed crop, legumes, other alternative cropping, fencing options, water systems, seeding options, re-signup, and cost-share programs	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	3	\$630.48	
Provide technical assistance and service for the Annual Plant Sale	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	3	\$630.48	
Erosion Control through Plantings, ie. CRP lands or set asides	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	3	\$630.48	
Develop Whitman Conservation District CRP program concept	7/14 – 6/15	Supervisors & Natural Resource Coordinator	2	\$420.32	
			45	\$9,457.20	totals

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Natural Resource Priority Program Area:

Quality of Life

Goal(s):

By June 2018 have a demonstrated increase in: agriculture related jobs, agriculture and conservation education programs in schools, fairs, libraries and other local events; thriving economy; great place to live, work, play and raise a family; positive community support & feedback; participation in district supported programs; increase interest in locally grown produce.

Natural Resource Measurable Result Objective:

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Present conservation education in schools, fairs, library and local events
- 10 participants participating in district supported programs
- 20 young participants in conservation work
- Reduction of regulatory interventions both in rural and urban areas
- Increase in participants in growing food crops
- Demonstrated support for agricultural activities, new technology use, and agricultural culture

Funding Source(s): WSCC Funding (Category 1, 2, 3), Cost-Share Grants, NRCS-CCRP, CREP, EQIP grants, RCO, WDFW

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Co-sponsor the legislative relations session with the other SE Area Districts	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	2	\$420.32	
Publish one edition of newsletter (The Steward) (could be via website)	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	3	\$630.48	
Host and assist in sponsorship of a booth at the Palouse Empire Fair	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	1	\$210.16	
Provide youth conservation education programs to 3 classes	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	3	\$630.48	
Host / assist with the County High School Envirothon and Land Judging Contest	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource Coordinator	2	\$420.32	
Update and maintain district website	7/14 – 6/15	Natural Resource	2	\$1,050.80	

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		<i>Coordinator</i>			
Participate in direct seed breakfasts	7/14 – 6/15	<i>Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	1	\$210.16	
			14	\$3,572.72	

District Operations:

Goal(s):

Goals: By June 2018 have a demonstrated increase in: high quality employees that are appreciated, happy Board Supervisors, steady Good Governance Tier 1 placement, clean audits & compliances, additional funding through grants, easily accessible office space

Programmatic Measurable Result Objective:

- Employee longevity
- Punctual, productive meetings
- Good Governance Tier 1 placement annually
- Annual excellent audit reports
- 20% increase in funding through grants
- By the end of June each year have completed effective and efficient operations including accounting, grant vouchering, personnel management, Supervisor elections & appointments, training & development, annual planning and reporting.

Funding Source(s):

Activities for FY2015	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Prepare and complete monthly Board meetings which include review of district law, rules, regulations on an annual basis	<i>As Required</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	12	\$ 2,521.92	<i>Volunteer</i>
Complete monthly Board meeting financial reports using the BARS Accounting System and annual financial requirements which include AP/AR, grant vouchers, taxes, year-end financial report, district budget	<i>As Required</i>	<i>District Auditor District Financial Contractor</i>	12	\$ 3,840.00	<i>Contract</i>
Organize and host Annual Stakeholders meeting	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	2	\$ 420.32	<i>Volunteer</i>

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Complete grant applications & reports as required by all funding entities	<i>As Required</i>	<i>Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	5	\$ 1,050.80	<i>Contract</i>
Complete review and report requirements –Schedule 22; Annual Plan of Work; Annual Report of Accomplishments	<i>As Required</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	1	\$210.16	<i>Volunteer</i>
Conduct district appointments and elections as required and assist other districts as requested	<i>As Required</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	2	\$ 420.32	<i>Volunteer</i>
Review and update when needed the district policy book, equipment inventory, MOU's, policies and procedures, employment posters and maintain/rent equipment as needed	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	1	\$ 210.16	<i>Volunteer</i>
Annually complete staff personnel reviews; provide supervisor and staff training as needed	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	1	\$ 210.16	<i>Volunteer</i>
Attend WADE, SE Area Mtg; Professional Engineering Mtg; WACD Convention; Direct Seed Conference; Annual Cattlemans Assoc Mtg; new supervisor orientation; regional tours; and other seminars/meetings that relate to priority concerns of the district and/or its operations	<i>Annually</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	7	\$ 1,471.12	<i>Volunteer</i>
As directed by the Board, apply for and secure funding for priority concerns within the district; explore opportunities to create district programs, fee for products, county funding and/or private funding	<i>As Requested</i>	<i>Board Members Natural Resource Coordinator</i>	2	\$ 420.16	<i>Volunteer</i>
			45	\$10,775.12	

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FY2015 Annual Budget Whitman Conservation District

(Insert district budget for FY2015 (7/1/14 – 6/30/15))

Estimated Budget July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Revenue:

Grant Income	\$ 61,928.00
Technical Service Provider	\$ pending
Account Interest	\$ xx
District Programs	<u>\$ 7,429.38</u>

Total Revenues \$ 69,357.38

Expenses:

Salaries/Benefits/Taxes	\$ 43,713.28
Office/Grant/Program Supplies	\$ 9,345.00
Cost-Share Program	\$ 4,039.10
Insurance/Dues	\$ 5,960.00
Training/Travel	<u>\$ 6,318.00</u>

Total Expenses \$ 69,357.38